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THE
M O T T O:

OR

HISTORY

OF

BILL WOODCOCK.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY

GEORGE BREWER.

VOL. II.

‘Fata viam inveniunt.’

Fate the way will find.

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THE
M O T T O.

CHAP. I.

I set out on a journey to Bristol.—The character of a sailor on the roof.—An accident.—A storm.—Am in danger of falling in love.—The conversation of the inside passengers, and the agreeable consequence that followed my adventures in the coach.

THOUGH my resolution was fixed to leave Mr. Flint, I still had prudence enough to wait a favourable opportunity; indeed, I did not despair of being able very soon to procure a better situation, as I began to have a knowledge of business, and made, what is called, a genteel appearance; my figure was now tall and portly, and I had an uncommon share of strength and activity, and as I entertained hopes

of being some day or other a gentleman, I endeavoured to assume the ease and deportment of that character, though my mind was still reasonable and humble. A circumstance however soon after happened, that made me indulge more romantic ideas than I had ever done in my life, and as they enlarged my expectations, lessened my happiness. I was one day informed by Mr. Flint, that he was going to Bristol, to the assizes, and that I was to follow him in the coach that set out in the evening, the outside of which, I mounted about seven o'clock, with no other fellow passenger on the roof than a drunken sailor, who hailed me the moment I entered the inn-yard, in some such language as follows, "What ho, shipmate! it's like you're bound to Bristol, we shall get underway in a jiffy, the pilot's coming on board;"

by

by which title I found he called the coachman, who now seated himself on the box, whose good humoured jokes, together with the wit of the honest tar, made time pass away very pleasantly, till we had nearly reached Hounslow Heath, when we were alarmed by the cries of a female voice, and could discover, as well as the darkness of the night would permit, a post-chaise overturned in the road just before us, our coachman immediately pulled in his horses; “Shiver my timbers, (cried the sailor,) but there’s a vessel “a-ground, d——n my grandmother’s “night-cap, heave too, directly.” We both of us instantly jumped from the box, and were with the chaise in a moment, when we found the carelessness of the boy had occasioned him to drive against a bank, which had overturned the carriage; scarce any thing could

exceed the distress and confusion of the scene ; the horses struggling to recover their legs, the traces broke, and the boy thrown ; but how much more was the horror of my mind increased, when with the greatest difficulty I received from the door of the shattered carriage, a young lady, whose face I could perceive by the light of our coach, was covered with blood, she was followed by another female, who did not seem so much hurt ; my first endeavours were to place them in the Bristol coach, but the one I had assisted, fainted in my arms, and was not brought to herself for some minutes, I wiped the blood from her face, and as soon as she was sensible, requested to know if she had suffered much injury ; she answered, “ No, Sir, I thank you, I believe not, “ I have only bruised my mouth a little against the side of the chaise, “ but

“ but how much am I indebted to
“ your courage and activity, for my
“ safety. I hope no harm has hap-
“ pened to yourself, in your endea-
“ vours to save me.” I assured her
there had not; her companion was also
as well as her fright would permit.
While I was thus employed, the honest
seaman, an Irish captain, one of the
inside passengers, and the ladies ser-
vant, who was (to use a common say-
ing) as drunk as an emperor, were at-
tending to the boy and his horses, I
enquired of Miss Goodwill (for that I
afterwards found was the name of the
young lady I had relieved) how it
happened that she was travelling at
that hour, she informed me, that hav-
ing received a letter that her father was
not well, she thought it her duty to set
out for Bristol immediately, particu-
larly as she had let her imagination so

far get the better of probability as to fancy that he was dangerously ill, that the chaise was a hired one, and that the servant they had with them, had only been a month in their service, and was drunk before he set out on the journey. "Well, thank Heaven, (said I,) that you are safe," (pressing her hand to my lips, almost involuntarily) I was a good deal hurt that during the hurry of this disaster, a female passenger sat as unconcerned in a corner of the coach, as if she had been in a side box at the play, nor offered the least civilities to the young lady, who ought to have been the object of all our attentions.

The honest tar and the Irish captain now returned to the coach, and informed us that the boy was not so much hurt as was thought at first, and
that

that the chaise would follow us to Maidenhead. "Well shipmates, (cried the sailor,) how are ye by this time? "all the danger's over, the vessel's "righted, and the rigging spliced: this "comes ye see, of putting a lubber at "the helm; Lord, he cou'd have "weathered the point where you struck. "easy enough, if he'd have known the "coast, but you see he goes close in "with the land, when he shou'd have "kept an offing, for there's an eddy "runs in shore, and there instead of "steering south-west and by south, "away goes he west south-west, "because as how he'd got too much "grog a-board, and didn't know the "variation of the compass." "By my "soul, you may say that, (cried the "Irish Captain, by way of explaining "the business more clearly) to be sure "he shou'd have kept away from the
B 4 "bank,

“bank, and then he wou’dn’t have
 “been overturned upon it; I was the
 “first, child! that overtook him, lying
 “clean in the mud, bellowing like a
 “french horn.” “What’s the matter,
 “my soul,” (says I?) “I am thrown,”
 “(says he.) “Stand upon your hind
 “legs (says I,) man, and tell us the
 “story.” “I can’t,” (says he,) “Then
 “lay there and be d—d (says I,) so
 “there’s a piece of Irish consolation for
 “ye my dear.” But I hope Miss,
 “(continued the Irish officer, to Miss
 “Goodwill) you are not hurt, nor the
 “other sweet young lady; faith I
 “had one of you in my arms, but for
 “the soul of me, I don’t know which.”
 Miss Goodwill replied, “that she be-
 “lieved, it was her companion
 “that he had had the goodness
 “to assist.” This conversation was
 put a stop to, by the third lady,
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(who had hitherto sat silent) calling out in a shrill voice: "coachman, do you mean to go on to-night?" As I had very little money in my pocket, I was obliged to tell Miss Goodwill, that I was only an outside passenger, and very politely wished them all a pleasant journey within. The coachman who had not been the least active in the business, now ascended his box, and was followed by the seamen and myself; as for Miss Goodwill's servant, he was left behind with the chaise, to take care of the trunk, and to assist the boy, of which offices he was not however very capable.

We had not been seated many minutes on the roof, before my fellow traveller, the sailor, gave the coachman a jog. "I tell you what shipmate, (cried he,) there's a storm
B 5 "brewing

“brewing right a-head; only look at
“the scud, zounds, we shall have it
“hot and warm presently; come, I’ll
“lend a hand to take in sail: we can’t
“be a great ways from the land, that’s
“one comfort.” Our honest companion had hardly finished his harangue, before we began to feel the truth of what he had said, would be the case; the rain fell in heavy drops, and a brisk wind blew from the westward in such strong and sudden puffs, that the body of the carriage inclined to its power; several flashes of lightning, and loud claps of thunder followed, and the rain began now to pour down in torrents: the coachman was hardly able to keep his box, and the horses scarcely manageable.

The dreadful warring of the elements, which no doubt, sufficiently alarmed

alarmed the inside passengers, seemed to have taken quite a different effect on my fellow-traveller, on the roof, who lay stretched along, singing in a hoarse hollow voice, "cease rude boreas." I could not help at this moment, reflecting on the goodness of the Almighty, who gives contentment to the humble lot, and adds as much of it, as is wanting, of the greater comforts and luxuries of life. Never were the cruel distinctions of situation better described, than in the character of this honest seaman; he had (as he informed us) buffeted the wind and weather, from a cabin boy, to a quarter master of a man of war, fourteen years hard service; we were favoured with an account of the voyages he had made, and of the captains he had sailed with, one of them, (to use his own words) "was a d——d fine fellow, and a

“failor’s friend.” Another, “was a
“lubberly, picked up along shore, pla-
“net struck jumping son of a b—h.”
And a third, “a fresh water failor, a
“fellow that was only fit for a white
“lined chamber a-shore, and didn’t
“know the main tack from the cabin
“windows.” It is out of the power of
fortune, said I to myself, to harm this
honest fellow, while he can reef, steer,
and heave the lead, he need not care a
fig for her frowns; and when he is
unable to do that, he is entitled to
Greenwich Hospital, to which place, he
will retire with more honour, than a
statesman to his country villa. Had it
not been for this, our comrade on the
roof, the coachman and myself would
have found our situation much more
unpleasant than we did, but the laugh-
able descriptions and broad jests of our
honest companion, put us in humour,
even

even with the inclemency of the night, which was one of the subjects he worked upon, describing, with a great deal of wit and satire, the behaviour of the gentlefolks in the cabin, who he said, "he dared to say, were all sea-sick, and wishing themselves safe landed a-shore."

Our friend, the sailor, whose station was (as he said) to look out a-head, now gave the inside passengers a loud holloa through the window, to inform them, that the land was close a-board, "but don't be *affeard*, (cried he) we've got the channel fairly open, and I know the marks as well as a king's pilot." It was however with difficulty, that the coachman could attend to his business, for the friendly assistance of the jack tar, who interrupted him every now and then, as he thought he saw

saw occasion, with "starboard, port a little, as you go now; steady, dammee, why don't you haul in a little of the mainbrace? If you don't haul a little to windward, we shall go plump a-shore, I see the breakers two points on the lee bow." And at last he alarmed us, not a little, by calling out, "d—n my wig, but there's a seventy-four right a-head," and desired us to put the helm up, that we might pass her to leeward. What he called a seventy-four, turned out to be a waggon loaded with turnips. I was too much fatigued with my journey, not to feel delighted, when we turned in to the inn-yard, at Maidenhead, nor was my companion less pleased; he had complained pretty often, that he wanted a little drop of "real comfort," and said several times, that he hoped when we came to an anchor, the
cabin

cabin passengers would call all hands to splice the mainbrace,* for getting them off the rocks as we had done.

The company had now alighted to take some supper, and were shewn into a room, by the waiter of the inn, who left us poor folks standing in the rain; I was however much too humble to feel any pain from the distinction this fellow thought proper to use; it was not so with my companion, for he called out to him as loud as he could: "holloa, you bone scraper, you, why "don't you man the side † for us too? "I suppose you think we can't pay for

* A custom on board a man of war, after a gale of wind, which is calling up the hands to drink a dram each.

† When the captain of a ship is coming on board, four sailors go down the ship's side, to assist him with the ropes, besides being a mark of respect.

"our

“our grub. Here, steer us into port
“somewhere, or I’ll knock your head
“rails down your throat, d—n me if
“I don’t.” The frightened waiter
turned about at this rough salutation,
(not caring to offend so powerful an
adversary) and told us very civilly, that
there was a good fire in the kitchen, to
which he conducted us. I had now an
opportunity of seeing to advantage, the
persons of my fellow travellers: the
sailor, and my friend the coachman;
the first was dressed in a fearnought
jacket, with a Bandanna handkerchief
round his neck, and a blue binding to
his hat, his figure, manly and well
made, with a face almost as brown as a
Cherokee. My friend, the coachman,
was a comely man, about forty, very
stout, with a round jolly face, and a
complexion that pictured good health,
though with too frequent a use of the
brandy

brandy bottle. Fortune had been very kind to this son of phæton: he was as I could perceive, a great favourite in the kitchen among the maids, and was provided with a seven-caped great coat, immediately on our arrival. We had hardly been in the kitchen a moment, when my fellow traveller asked me if I would drink with him: “here Polly, “ (cried he to one of the girls) give us “ a drop of the righteous, we have had “ a devilish long spell of it on the poop, “ and it blew like blazers at the time.” The young woman who served us, and who appeared very good natured, could not help smiling at the drollery of my companion, who drank her health, and wished her a good husband. A good large dish of beef steaks were now taken from the kitchen fire, which was no sooner perceived by the sailor, than he
called

called out to the coachman, “* scald-
 “ ings, scaldings, here’s the grub, none
 “ of your salt junk †, come give us
 “ some soft tommy § and knog ‡, a
 “ little swipes will ye.”

We had now seated ourselves at the kitchen table to partake of what is called the coachman’s supper, which frequently happens to be better cooked and provided, than that of the passengers; I confess I envied very little the superior accommodation of the company in the parlour, when I saw with what a hearty zest my companions dispatched the supper that was set before them; it is true that I sometimes

* Signifying to stand out of the way, for fear of being scalded.

† Salt beef.

§ Bread.

‡ To knog, is to put a red hot poker in some small beer.

wished

wished to be included in the party, that I might have a little conversation with Miss Goodwill, whose gentleness of manners and grateful acknowledgements to me, had made no small impression on my mind, though I dreaded the thought of being involved in hopeless love, for I had every reason to think she was a young lady of fashion, and if so, that I should only indulge ideas that would be dangerous to my peace of mind, and that must meet with disappointment.

I was however, notwithstanding the pain of conscious littleness, very comfortable with my jovial friends, who had by this time forgot the tempestuousness of the night, and were drinking glass after glass to the young women in the kitchen, who on their side were not a little delighted with the compliments
paid

paid them by the sailor and their old friend the coachman, who seemed privileged in the liberties he took.—I could not help joining in the festivity of the moment, and even kissing the lips of one of the lasses, who had very kindly put me on a great coat, while she dried mine at the kitchen fire.

The chaise that we had left at Hounslow now arrived, and with it, Miss Goodwill's servant, who was pretty near sober; I took care to enquire who his young mistress was, he informed me that her father was a gentleman of great fortune, and that his estate was near Wells, in Somersetshire. Is it so, said I to myself, then Bill Woodcock, thy hopes are at an end.—The coachman now signified his intention to proceed on his journey, when our friend the sailor pulled out his money, and insisted

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insisted upon paying the reckoning,
“ here’s your rhino, (cried he,) dis-
“ playing the guineas in his hand, you
“ see as how I’ve just receiv’d my
“ prize money for the *Mounsiere*, a
“ French frigate that we took when I
“ was in the little Flying Tartar, com-
“ manded by captain Grampus, as fine
“ a bark as ever put to sea, mounts
“ eight and twenty, nine pounders,
“ and sails thirteen knots an hour,
“ with the wind on the quarter, d—n
“ my grandmother’s old red night-
“ cap, if I don’t pay for you all, if
“ you’re a-ground, Jack Hawser’s none
“ of your flinchers, damme, d’ye think
“ I’m like the scaly humbugs inside.”

—It was with great difficulty that I
persuaded this noble tar from lavishing
his money upon any who would chuse
to say they wanted it, which I should
not have done, had not the waiter
come

come in to tell us, that, captain Mac-Gallagher had discharged our expences for the assistance we had afforded the ladies on the road; this circumstance made Jack alter his tone, for he now swore by the mainmast, that the commodore of the squadron was a glorious buck, and d—n him if he didn't think so all along.—I was the only one who felt hurt at this liberality, as I felt myself a little above the obligation, I however checked my folly, thou art I fear Bill Woodcock, said I, with a sigh, getting proud.

As we were making ready to depart, I observed my friend the coachman look at me with a great deal of attention, “blaw me, (cried he,) twisting the thong of his
 “ whip, as he stood at the kitchen
 “ door, I think those fine folks inside
 “ might make you a little room such a
 “ night as this, why I wodn't turn a
 “ dog

“dog out in it, hang me, if I wo’d,
“I doesn’t mind for my part, I’m
“used to it, so is old Trincalo. But
“its quite another gues’s matter with
“you I’m *certain*. If they don’t let you
“in it’s a dang’d shame that’s all.”

After this he made his way to the parlour door, to tell the company that the coach was waiting. I had the curiosity to follow, to hear what he would say, it was nearly as follows, “we’ve
“put the horses in, ladies and gemmen,
“it’s a deadly wet night, I wanted to
“ax your ladyships and his honour, to
“take in the poor young gemman that
“rides on the box,” “take in who,?”
exclaimed a shrill female voice, “the
“young gemman on the box,” continued Williams, (for that was the coachman’s name,) “indeed he shan’t
“come inside, (returned the lady,) he
“has only paid for out, I dares to say,”

“that’s

“ that’s no matter, (returned Williams)
“ he seems quite a gemman, and
“ talks as if he had been as well
“ brought up as your ladyship.”
“ None of your *imperance*, (returned she)
“ or I’ll have you punished, I will;”
“ me punished! (cried Williams,) with a
“ whistle, I don’t want to get a penny
“ more by the young man not I, if the
“ company an’t agreeable I’ve done,
“ that’s all.” “ I am sure I am agree-
“ able, (said Miss Goodwill,) and
“ thought of him, the moment it began
“ to rain,” “ by St. Patrick! (cried the
“ Irish officer,) we are all of us mighty
“ agreeable, I may say that for myself
“ however,” “ you have no business to say
“ it for me, sir, (interrupted the lady,) I
“ am not agreeable,” “ faith you may
“ say that,” (cried he) “ you are no gentle-
“ man, sir, (continued she,) to insult a
“ woman” “ no gentleman! (replied
the

the captain,) Dennis O'phelim Macgallaher, captain of his Majesty's regiment of light dragoons, no gentleman! faith, that's more than you are, or ever will be my dear;" "And my name, fir, (returned the lady,) is Addle, and I'd have you to know that I was born and bred a gentlewoman;" "faith then, (cried the Irish captain) you want the best of all titles to it;" "what is that pray fir?" "A little bit of humanity my dear."—Miss Goodwill now interfered, and with a voice as sweet and gentle as an angel, represented my situation on the roof; "I am sure madam, (said she) you will not persist to oppose the request of the coachman, such a night as this?" "Indeed but I will," (returned the lady.) "Why his cloaths are all *wet*, and do you think now I'm going to have my things spoilt?"—

The other young lady (who I afterwards found was Miss Goodwill's maid,) expressed the same sentiments with her mistress.—“ To be sure, (said the captain) the business is'nt settled at once, “ there is a majority against ye, my “ dear Mrs. what d'ye call u'm, and “ faith I hope there always will be, in “ favour of good nature and generosity; so do you hear coachman, tell “ him we shall be glad of his company.” “ Well do, if you dare, sir, (cried Mrs. “ Addle) my husband shall apply to the “ proper-rioters of the coach, that's all; “ he's an attorney at law and *won't* see “ me imposed upon by *nobody*.”—The company who paid very little attention to this legal virago, now proceeded to the coach, and passed through the entry where I stood. The first was Mrs. Addle, who was a little woman, with a face that would have appeared rather

rather pretty, had it not been strongly marked with expressive vulgarity, her figure was not very flattering, for her legs was so very short, that it was with vast difficulty that she raised one of them to the step of the coach, which she had no sooner done, than the coachman, (who retained a little acid for the abuse she had bestowed on him,) dropped his arm on which she leant, as by accident, which poise was no sooner lost, than she came down sideways in the mud and rolled over, to the great amusement of the waterman, hostlers, &c. who were attending the coach. “ I am sure, ma’am, (cried Williams, helping her up,) I am very
“ sorry, I thought you had laid hold
“ on my arm; lord bless me, it was a
“ bad fall;” “ you are an *imperant* saucy
“ blackguard, (cried the enraged Mrs.
“ Addle,) and I’ll fit you; I will; you
C 2 “ did

“ did it on purpose, you did ;” “ me !
 “ lord ma’am ;” “ yes, you did, and
 “ you shall suffer for it severely, if it
 “ costs me a thousand pounds.”—We
 were detained a little longer by this
 accident, till Mrs. Addle had put her-
 self to rights, during which time, I had
 an opportunity of seeing Miss Good-
 will. She appeared about eighteen, her
 eyes were blue, and shone with all the
 vivacity of a good and happy mind,
 her face was beautifully expressive;
 her hair was light brown, and hung in
 ringlets to her waist, which was very
 small, and proportioned to the most
 exquisite form ; I began to think it
 would have been better for me to have
 rode outside. I gave her my hand to
 lead her to the coach, which she did not
 refuse ; “ you must come in with me ;”
 (cried she,) “ pardon me, (said I,) I
 “ am only an outside passenger ;” “ non-
 “ sense,

“sense, (cried Miss Goodwill,) it is settled that you shall.” We now waited for the Irish captain, who had neglected the ladies, to empty part of a bowl of punch left in the parlour, and presently came after us with a loud holloa, “Where is the young gentleman coche that was to come inside man;” but upon being told where I was, he got in, and taking hold of my hand, expressed his satisfaction in the following words, “how d’ye do now, my dear fellow, faith you must have had a plaguey bad time of it, perched up like a blackbird upon the roof;” as for Miss Goodwill, she expressed herself so much delighted with my being out of the inclemency of the night, that I became more and more charmed with her every moment. We were now just ready to go off, when we were stopt by our fellow
C 3 traveller,

traveller, the sailor, who called out to us, as loud as he could bawl, "holloa, heave too there, d'ye hear, I want to come aboard." "What the d—l have you been about all this time?" (cried Williams,) "Been about! why emptying the black jack to be fure, to keep out the weather. But I say, where's my shipmate?" "Inside;" "inside! dammee, tell him its his watch upon deck, a sculking lubber, what's he about there?" I presently found my friend Jack was very highly offended at the change that had taken place, by his calling out through the window as he ascended to the box, "holloa! I say shipmate, where have you stowed yourself, what sculking, ha, why don't ye come upon deck?" These remonstrances were at last put an end to by Williams, who now drove from the inn. Soon after

after which, I believe the sailor fell fast asleep on the roof, for I heard no more of him for some time. Miss Goodwill seemed to enjoy exceedingly my companion's bluntness and humour, which led her to make some general observations on the character of an English seaman. This subject however did not last long, a more pleasing one awaited me, which while it interested me more, made me better acquainted with the disposition of the gentle Harriet Goodwill. It was but natural that we should repeat the misadventures of the former part of the night, and it was equally natural that a renewal of enquiries on my side and thanks on hers should be made. Thus I entered into a freedom of conversation, which I owed entirely to the misfortune that had happened. I found in the observations Miss Goodwill made, the

C 4 strong

strong marks of a generous and sensible mind, she seemed to endeavour to make me believe that she respected me, notwithstanding the circumstances that were against me, and tried with uncommon complacency to make me happy and comfortable; in this intent, she was however interrupted by Mrs. Addle, who had now pretty near recovered the effects of her fall, and as I was relating some of the seaman's humorous descriptions, observed, that
“ she *dared to say*, I was very much
“ amused, but she could not say that
“ she ever heard of a gentleman riding
“ outside before, but she supposed I
“ did it out of a frolic;” this was said with such a sarcastic sneer that I could not help answering with more warmth than prudence, “ no, madam, you did not
“ suppose any such thing, and I will
“ frankly avow my reasons to have
“ been

“ been what you have meanly ima-
“ gined, the not being able to afford
“ to ride inside ; but thank Heaven I
“ am too proud to be lessened by an
“ insult that cannot accuse my heart
“ or affect my character, and yet too
“ humble to suffer by the opinion you
“ would propagate ;” “ you have no
“ occasion to reply sir, (cried Miss
“ Goodwill in a low whisper,) such un-
“ generous reproaches only raise you in
“ the esteem of the worthy, and make
“ the author of them contemptible.”
“ I beg your pardon, madam, (cried I
“ to Miss Goodwill,) for being so warm,
“ I was too sensibly touched, what could
“ not affect conscious superiority might
“ yet hurt the feelings of a poor wan-
“ derer, without a relation or a friend in
“ the world.—It is easy to tread upon
“ the worm that lies under our feet ;”
“ you make me very unhappy, (cried

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“ Miss Goodwill,) your generous behaviour to me, in the moment of danger, your enlarged sentiments and the situation you describe, make an interest in my heart, much more in your favour than against you.”

“ Odds, botheration! (exclaimed the Irish captain, to Mrs. Addle) why what the d—l’s the matter with the woman, now? faith, she wants a little bit more mud in her mouth, to keep her quiet; by Saint Patrick! I wish you had your belly full of it, my dear.”

Mrs. Addle was effectually silenced by this address, and I enjoyed again, an uninterrupted conversation with Miss Goodwill, who gave me her hand, as if to recompence me for the insult I had received, and assured me, she should never forget the assistance I had given her.

It

It was eight o'clock before we arrived at the Talbot Inn, at Marlborough, when Miss Goodwill and the captain very politely asked me to breakfast with them, to which Mrs. Addle immediately objected. "Indeed, (cried she) I shan't eat my breakfast with an outside passenger; why can't the young man drink porter with the coachman?" "To be sure then (said the Irish captain) I won't breakfast alone, to have the pleasure of his company; faith now, you're a very *rumbunctious* gentlewoman; let me tell you that." "Madam, (cried Miss Goodwill, addressing herself to Mrs. Addle) you may do as you please, for my own part, I think it my duty now, to make amends to this young gentleman, whom you have so much insulted," Mrs. Addle, who I suppose felt a little respect for Miss Goodwill, because she

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had a livery servant with her, made no answer to this reproof, but vented all her indignation on the poor captain, who at last got the better, by telling her, "that she wou'd have the warm corner below stairs, if she didn't mend; faith, you'll have an inside place, there: (cried he) to be sure the old boy won't catch you by the paw some day or other." It was very agreeable to me, that Mrs. Addle chose to breakfast by herself, as it occasioned the captain to order another room for us. The opportunity I had of an uninterrupted conversation with Miss Goodwill, (for the captain sufficiently engaged her companion) gave me more than I could have expected. I ventured to tell her the mystery of my birth, and my situation, and however romantic it might be, indulged the idea, that she would only feel more interested

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interested for me, on that account; it was lucky that she was as romantic as myself, or I should have suffered for my candour, and experienced the reserve, so constantly adopted by the world, on a negative discovery. It was not so however with Miss Goodwill, she listened to my adventures with apparent pleasure, and observed she was sure that I was a particular favourite of providence, and that the mystery of my birth would one day or other, be revealed to my advantage; however pleasing and prophetic Miss Goodwill's observations might appear, I imagined them rather the effect of her good wishes than any thing else. We had now finished breakfast, when the captain took his leave of us, as he was quartered within a mile of the town, and I was left to continue my journey with Miss Goodwill, her maid, and Mrs. Addle; however,

ever, before I got into the coach, I made it up with my friend Jack Hawser, by giving him a drop of brandy, who congratulated me on my success, in his way. "I say, shipmate, "you've got into a snug birth; couple "of pretty frigates, must look well with "their sails unbent, moored safe in the "bay of Bedfordshire." I did not stop long to listen to this conversation, as the passengers were waiting for me, and Mrs. Addle impatient; happy should I have been, had that lady left us at Marlborough; however, as she was quiet, I had great reason to be thankful, and continued my conversation with Miss Goodwill and her companion, who was a pleasant girl, and appeared to be very much my friend.

On our arrival at Bristol, my friend, the sailor, alarmed us all, by calling out,

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out, "man the topfail clewlines, put
"the helm a-port, stand clear of the
"cable there, let go the anchor; (and
"then jumping down, addressed us all
"in the coach) well, messmates, what
"cheer, safe moor'd at last, they are
"veering out the small bower, nice
"harbour, plenty of fresh beef and
"soft tommy. Ah! God bless ye,
"(cried he, to Miss Goodwill) are you
"there too, stow'd safe away in the
"wings, Lord love you're pretty lips."

The honest tar's next compliment was
paid to Mrs. Addle, "What! Mrs.
"Prettystuff, how d'ye do?" "Go
"along ye dirty fellow, do, and don't
"let's have none of your *imperance*."
"Oh Lord! (returned Jack, with a
"significant look) I hope I havn't
"offended your ladyship's glory, but
"perhaps if your b——e was set upon
"a wet swab, for a dog watch, you
"wod'nt

“wodn’t be quite so proud.” “What
“does the dirty fellow mean? (cried
“Mrs. Addle) am I to be nothing but
“insulted by every body?” I thought
it proper to expostulate with Jack at
this moment, and begged he would not
be rude to the ladies; “Lord love
“your honour, (cried he) I didn’t mean
“any harm, I’m sure, if the lady has a
“mind to shake hands, I’m ready, and
“I’ll treat her with a drop of grog into
“the bargain.” “A drop of grog!
“(exclaimed Mrs. Addle) insolent
“villain.” “Come, come, (cried he)
“shake hands;” “me shake hands with
“you!” “there’s only a little tar upon
“it,” (returned he.) Mrs. Addle was
now too much enraged, to contain her-
self any longer, and stepped out of the
coach, exclaiming, we were a set
of vulgar *low liv’t* wretches. We now
got rid of our friend, the seaman, and
alighted

alighted at the Castle Inn, where Miss Goodwill heard that her father was considerably better; this added not a little to her spirits, and as the weather was now very fair, I requested her to permit me to see her to her house, which was about two miles from the town; the servant, however (who was a good deal disconcerted at his behaviour the preceding night) was dispatched home first, to acquaint Mr. Goodwill of the arrival of his daughter, and to bring the carriage, as the ground was too wet for us to walk. Miss Goodwill, however, insisted that I should go with her, and assured me, that her father would be very happy to receive a person, who had rescued her from such imminent danger. Though I knew that I should have attended Mr. Flint immediately on my arrival, I could not resist an offer so charming to my mind, as that Miss Goodwill made me,

me, indeed my heart beat with delight, at the thought of riding in a gentleman's carriage: so much does trifles please us, when we permit vanity to get the master. The coach at last arrived, and we set out for Stone Hall, which was a Gothic building almost surrounded by trees. On our entrance into the house, I could not help being struck at the beautiful paintings hung up in the hall, which appeared to be some centuries old, and at the elegance and workmanship of the furniture. Miss Goodwill went directly to her father's room, and I was shewn into a magnificent drawing room. I can hardly describe how I felt at this moment, I looked at myself in the glass, walked with an air of importance about the room, and indulged in the most rapid succession, a thousand ridiculous ideas; though reason now and then whispered

me,

me, "Bill Woodcock, beware of the
"deceits of vanity." At last I was
told, Mr. Goodwill was ready to see
me, and I trod along the entry, with a
mixture of exultation and fear, to his
room; the old gentleman shook hands
with me the moment I entered, and
expressed his satisfaction at seeing me;
"young gentleman, (cried he) you
"deserve my best thanks, for the
"assistance you gave my daughter; I
"shudder at the thoughts only, of the
"danger to which she was exposed,
"and could almost scold her for her
"tenderness for me, in setting out at
"night on such a journey, though
"accompanied by her servant; you
"will however, I hope, do us the favour
"to spend a few days with us, before
"you return to London: I am sure,
"we shall be very happy in your
"company." Miss Goodwill seconded
her

her father's invitation in so kind and persuasive a manner, that I found myself too much interested, not to comply with their request; my only difficulty was now to obtain leave of Mr. Flint to remain at Bristol a few days after our business was over, and to avoid coming to any particular explanation with Mr. Goodwill, about my situation, for notwithstanding that gentleman's affability, there was a certain dignity in his manners, that appeared too much like pride, for me to hope that he would favour my acquaintance with his daughter a moment longer, after he should be informed, who and what I was. I, however, comforted myself, by thinking, that as my profession was genteel, and as he could not know I was not articled to Mr. Flint, that he would at least receive me with politeness, if I acted with discretion. The evening passed

passed in mirth and festivity, as a good deal of company arrived; and I retired to bed, not a little elated with the adventures I had met with.

The next morning I mentioned the necessity of my going to Bristol, but was not a little disconcerted when I found a servant was to go with me; so much respect, set very ill upon me at first, particularly when I reflected how poor and unfortunate a being I was. I had the good fortune not to meet Mr. Flint, till I waited upon him at the inn, alone; for had he seen me so attended, I am very certain his envy and pride would have made him do me all the injury he could with Mr. Goodwill; I however obtained his leave to remain a few days at Bristol after the affizes were over, as I told him I had some friends in the town, though it was

was given me with all the consequence of a master to his servant. I promised accordingly to be with him at Wells early the next morning, and by that means, escaped dining with him and some other attornies, where I must have felt myself very uncomfortable:

I returned to Stone Hall to dinner, where I had the pleasure of being introduced to a gentleman, who they called Dr. Willock: his figure was grand and majestic, but his countenance the most mild and good natured I had ever seen: he seemed to take particular notice of me, and asked me a number of questions, which I fancied were directed to discover the sentiments of my mind and my education; thanks to my dear mother, I was not ignorant, which I believe he was convinced of very soon, as he paid me many compliments

on

on my reading and memory, more than I deserved.

There were two more ladies and a gentleman on a visit to Mr. Goodwill. We had no sooner drank tea, than one of them proposed a game at questions and commands, in which innocent diversion, Doctor Willock joined with a great deal of glee, but to me it was charming, as it gave me an opportunity of shewing a thousand little gallantries to Miss Goodwill, and a privilege to kiss those lips, which discretion would have guarded at any other moment.

C H A P.

CHAP. II.

I go to Wells, to the assizes.—Have a tender interview with Miss Goodwill.—Travel to town in a post chaise; with Dr. Willock.—A philosophical discourse on moral and physical evil, and on happiness.

I HAD the pleasure to find, that I had already obtained the favour and esteem of Mr. Goodwill, who took a great deal of pleasure in shewing me his library and his pictures, besides taking me over his grounds, where he had established a cloth manufactory, that employed above a hundred people; never was any body more beloved; all the country people round about, and his domestics spoke of him, as if he had been more than mortal, nor was I little pleased

pleased to find that he possessed so high a character for hospitality. I became more delighted every hour with my situation, though it appeared to me rather like a dream than any thing real, but I believe I was not perfectly in my senses, for my ideas were a rapid succession of agreeable impressions, unrestrained by reason or judgement; to add to my happiness, I had every reason to think that I had established an interest in my Harriet's heart, by no means equivocal, for which, however, I had to fear, that I must give up my peace of mind, and wear the chains of hopeless love, and anxious despondency.

I kept my appointment very punctually with Mr. Flint, and was at Wells, by nine o'clock, though thoroughly vexed at so untimely an interruption to my pleasures. Our trial, however, came on

first, and we had a verdict, which pleased Mr. Flint so much, that he allowed me to remain at Bristol, until the next week, when he peremptorily assured me, he expected that I should attend again to business. I had managed to leave the servant with the horses at the Inn, and no sooner returned there, than I rode to Stone Hall, as hard as I could, that I might not lose a moment of my Harriet's company.

'The moments however passed away much too rapidly for my wishes; every endeavour was used by Mr. Goodwill to make me comfortable and happy, and I had only to lament, when the day arrived of my departure; Miss Goodwill had been prepared for it, as Dr. Willock, who was also going to town, made me the offer to travel in his chaise.

chaise. I was walking with my Harriet, (for so I must now call her) in the garden, she asked me if it was absolutely necessary for me to go to London so soon: I answered, "yes."

"I wish you could stop with us a little longer." (cried she in the most persuasive manner) "Do not ask me, (said I)

"I fear I have already stopped too long; your goodness, and your father's hospitality, have made impressions that will make me regret constantly my cruelty of situation, which will most likely never let me see you again." "Never see us again!"

"No, (said I) I dare not see you any more; I must indulge no longer romantic ideas: I was once humble and I was happy." "And are you

"not happy now?" "Yes, at this moment, (said I) but let me go where I will, where shall I find another

“ Harriet Goodwill; (she put her
“ handkerchief to her eyes, and leaned
“ against a chair) pardon me, (said I)
“ it is cruel of me to take this advantage
“ of your sensibility; I will not say any
“ thing further; tell me only that I
“ have your good wishes.” “ That
“ you have; (said she) God bless you
“ wherever you go.” My Harriet now
put a small pocket book into my hand,
which she told me to keep for her sake.
The pleasure I felt in this interview,
cannot be described, but can easily
be imagined by those who have ex-
perienced a scene of as much love and
tenderness. The moment of separa-
tion, made my Harriet still more
kind and susceptible; she shook hands
with me when we parted, and as I
thought, shed a tear; her father repeated
his wishes to serve me, and his hopes to
see me again; in short, nothing could
be

be more flattering to my hopes, than the manner in which he behaved.

I set out from Bristol in company with Doctor Willock, at six the next morning, a good deal out of spirits, for which he did not rally me a little. "Well young gentleman, (cried he,) what makes you so disconsolate, has Miss Goodwill got your heart already?" I replied that I must be very insensible, if I did not esteem so amiable a young lady, and that were I not a poor wanderer, without sixpence in the world, I could love her above any other person, but that I would never be so ungenerous as to give pain to a gentleman, who had received me so hospitably, by a clandestine correspondence with his daughter, and that for any thing else, my situation shut me out for ever; "no," said I, with per-

haps more spirit than truth, " may he
" be happy in the good he designs her,
" and may I learn to bear my cruel
" fortune with resignation." " I am
" sorry, (cried the doctor,) to hear you
" complain already of ill fortune, and
" cannot but say, that I feel a little
" curious to know what reason you
" have to be dissatisfied with your situa-
" tion." This conversation led me to
give Dr. Willock a short sketch of my
history, which seemed to engage his
attention very much. " There is
" something young gentleman, (cried
" he) very extraordinary indeed in your
" story; do not however indulge any
" ideas that may make you dissatisfied
" with your present situation; Provi-
" dence, which directs all the incidents
" of human life, will, if it is for your
" good, disclose to you one day or
" other the mystery of your birth;
" till

“ till then, fill with chearfulness your
“ lot. Trust all to her, act with rea-
“ son, and you need not fear the want
“ of contentment.—With respect to
“ your esteem for Miss Goodwill, at-
“ tend to the voice of discretion, place
“ not your expectations of happiness
“ on those who are above you, you
“ will find such hopes unreal and de-
“ lusive ; family pride, and above all,
“ the regard to circumstances will be
“ the bars to your success ; Mr. Good-
“ will, though a most worthy man, has
“ a knowledge of the world that will
“ make him careful to obtain for his
“ daughter an advantageous match ;
“ your good sense will tell you, you
“ are not in possession of what he will
“ expect ; I admit that plays and novels,
“ and even real life, presents us now
“ and then with instances of love in-
“ dependent of interest, but they are
D 4 “ few

“ few and doubtful. I know my
“ young friend, it will be impossible
“ for you to forget Miss Goodwill, till
“ you have entertained a passion for
“ another object; till then, (you will,
“ I hope, pardon my giving my ad-
“ vice so freely,) I would recommend
“ you to pursue your business with at-
“ tention, and treat yourself with in-
“ nocent amusement; travelling, as
“ Ovid says, is one of the best reme-
“ dies for love.

“ When once set out, diversions you will meet,
“ Fair country prospects and companions sweet.”

“ And it is most likely you will, in a
“ little time, meet with some good
“ virtuous girl, your equal, who will
“ make you happy by her tenderness
“ and frugality, this is the conduct
“ reason points out, and will never
“ leave you an uneasy reflection; the
“ passion

“ passion of love is ever dangerous to
“ our peace of mind ; if however you
“ have an attachment for Miss Good-
“ will, too strong to be removed, I
“ am sure I need not tell you to act
“ with honour and discretion, and it is
“ possible even in that case that
“ Heaven may design more good for
“ you than you can imagine.” I
thanked Doctor Willock for his advice,
and assured him, however painful it
might be to me to follow it, I would
not by rashness or dissimulation forfeit
Mr. Goodwill’s esteem, though I was
very much afraid that I should resign
from honour, all that I held valuable
in life. After a little further conver-
sation on my situation, Doctor Willock
expressed with a good deal of warmth
his dislike to Mr. Flint, who, he said,
must be, from what I had related, a
very bad man, and “ I would have you

“ (said he) leave him as soon as you
“ possibly can, it will never do you any
“ good to remain in his service, his
“ principles are very dangerous, as they
“ give you hopes of being able to get
“ a great deal of money, and promise
“ you a respectable situation in life,
“ to attain which you must sacrifice
“ every generous and liberal idea, and
“ be at last further from happiness
“ than the humblest mechanic. David
“ has beautifully described the end of
“ the bad man in the thirty-second
“ Psalm.

“ I went by and lo he was gone ! I sought him
“ but his place was no where to be found ;”

“ And then in the fifty-second Psalm,

“ Lo, this is the man, that took not God for his
“ strength, but trusted unto the multitude
“ of his riches, and strengtheneth himself
“ in his wickedness.”

“ Nor

“ Nor must you be tempted with the
“ promises of such a man, they are as
“ false as they are flattering; in the
“ thirteenth chapter of Ecclesiasticus,
“ you will find the following texts ap-
“ plicable to your situation,

“ If he have need of thee, he will deceive thee
“ and smile upon thee, and put thee in
“ hope, he will speak thee fair, and say
“ what wantest thou.”

“ If thou be for his profit, he will use ye;
“ but if thou have nothing, he will for-
“ sake thee.”

“ The sooner then you fly the danger,
“ the better, and I would recommend
“ you, (continued Doctor Willock,) at
“ your leisure to read the book of Eccle-
“ siasticus, you will find in it a rule of
“ conduct above all that moral philoso-
“ phy can teach, and a knowledge of the
“ world sufficient to direct you in every
“ situation in life, and to preserve you
D 6 “ from

“ from the arts and cunning of man-
“ kind. With a heart formed on its
“ precepts, you cannot fail of being
“ as happy as possible in this world.
“ Trust in the providence of God, and
“ your hours shall pass in pleasantness
“ and peace; be industrious and your
“ endeavours will have their reward;
“ avoid getting in debt, and œconomy
“ shall give you the comforts of life,
“ with which be satisfied, as they are
“ preferable to anxious hopes and un-
“ certain expectances; in short, learn
“ to be content, and not like Mr. Flint,
“ multiply riches, by subtracting from
“ virtue and happiness. The man of
“ the world is the most unhappy of
“ all human beings, his riches he ascribes
“ to his management and prudence;
“ nor can his selfish heart find the
“ hand of Providence in any good that
“ happens to him; should misfortune
“ arise, he will tell you, that it is im-
“ possible

“ possible for him to extricate himself ;
“ he will then say, “ good God,
“ what shall I do ? ” but these are with
“ him only words of course, he feels
“ not the power, nor does he know
“ how to ask the assistance of God.
“ Should he get the better of his
“ difficulties, he will say, “ my plans
“ have succeeded ; thanks to my pru-
“ dence and invention,” and ascribes
“ all to himself ; and so he may, for
“ God is equally distant from such a
“ man in success or difficulty. It is this
“ self assurance and senseless torpidity
“ that subjects men to the evils of life
“ of which they so much complain. We
“ trust to ourselves while the career of
“ interest or folly lasts ; and then when
“ riches or when pleasures fail, we know
“ not where to look for happiness, while
“ the poor countryman has purchased it
“ with temperance and contentment, and
“ holds it by the firmest tenure, a good
“ and

“ and honest heart. Philosophers have
“ said a great deal about moral and
“ physical evil; the truth is, that
“ however subject we may be to the
“ latter, its effects are mostly produced
“ or increased by our own perverseness
“ and folly. Rousseau says, “ that
“ men who live in primeval simplicity,
“ hardly know disease, and are scarcely
“ irritated by any passion.” Thus
“ then temperance becomes necessary
“ to happiness, and if we wantonly
“ abuse the first, we must not expect
“ to enjoy the latter, as they are intimately
“ connected. It has been asked,
“ why we are at all subjected to
“ evil? It is not for us to enquire,
“ since the search must be negative
“ and dissatisfactory. Philosophers
“ have however agreed, that we are sentenced
“ to suffer in this world for some
“ offence, which made the Almighty
“ punish our race, and change our very
“ nature

“ nature and condition, it is in vain
“ that we say, we are innocent of this
“ crime, vice will have its consequence,
“ and it is left to us even now, to
“ entail misery and disease upon our
“ children for an age to come, or to
“ leave them the blessing of the Al-
“ mighty and untainted health. Let
“ then the pilgrim thus doomed to
“ wander on earth, present a life of
“ atonement that may insure him a bet-
“ ter world; cheerful in the protection
“ of a God, whose delight is to pardon;
“ and in a Mediator’s love, who came
“ on purpose to redeem us; nor need
“ any despair; let enthusiasts say what
“ they will, it is contrary to the be-
“ nevolent nature of the Deity to
“ punish with eternal misery, error and
“ indiscretion; it is only the hardened
“ sinner that will be rejected; the mali-
“ cious man, whose delight is backbiting
“ his neighbours, and who studies only
“ mischief

“ mischief to his fellow creatures, will
“ ask in vain for mercy; it is not
“ crimes that have been repented sin-
“ cerely, and for which an accusing
“ heart has directed a full atonement,
“ that will meet the vengeance of
“ God; it is the badness of the heart
“ that will be judged; it is a recom-
“ pence the good deserve, that the
“ man who could coolly and perhaps
“ ingeniously destroy the peace of a
“ fellow creature in this world, should
“ suffer for it in the next, and that
“ pride and oppression should no longer
“ exult, but be made to humble to
“ injured worth and innocence.”

We stopt at the Devizes to breakfast,
when the Doctor made some excuses
for having begun a conversation, which
was seldom entertaining to a young
mind; I assured him in return, that I
valued his instruction more than any
thing

thing else, and begged that he would continue it. "I am glad (cried the " Doctor) to find you disposed to " religion, and depend upon it, so far " from your finding her irksome and " gloomy, you will soon delight in her " precepts; she is always chearful and " serene, and the promises she bestows " are real and satisfactory; but, (cried " the Doctor) we will change the sub- " ject for the present, and take our " breakfast, and will resume it again if " you please, when on the road." I could not help feeling highly gratified with the character of this gentleman, who possessed as much wit and humour, as he had good sense and judgement; he entertained me during breakfast with a number of anecdotes of persons in high life, and made the most just observations upon men and manners, so that I felt in his conversation, all
that

that intellectual pleasure superior talents
ever can bestow.

We had not been long seated again
in the chaise, before I requested Dr.
Willock to resume the subject we had
left, and to favour me with his opinion
respecting the religion of nature, so
much spoken of by philosophers, on
which I confessed I had read several
books in Mr. Flint's library, which,
though I had been educated in religious
truths, had left some unpleasant im-
pressions on my mind.

“ I will, with great pleasure, (cried
“ the Doctor) explain to you, what is
“ natural, and what is revealed religion,
“ as far as I can. This subject we are
“ at liberty to enter upon, only for one
“ purpose, that of glorifying the Deity,
“ and confuting the dangerous systems
“ of

“ of modern philosophers, who at the
“ same time that they are atheists from
“ pride, are believers from conviction.
“ It is by no means an extravagant
“ idea, (cried the Doctor) that the soul
“ is an emanation of the divine essence;
“ it is at first, a tablet, on which is en-
“ graven, all the attributes of the good
“ deity, which characters are made to
“ appear in childhood, from good
“ precept and education, or may be
“ defaced by folly and vicious habits,
“ or entirely obliterated, as the mind
“ strengthens by hardened vice.

“ The pure thoughts which the
“ mind sometimes reaches to, when
“ disengaged from the world, is a
“ demonstration that we partake of a
“ heavenly nature.

“ The principle of good seems to be
“ prior in its existence to the bad
“ principle;

“ principle ; the mind receives the last
“ always negatively : a sufficient proof,
“ that the good principle was the first
“ infused into the soul of man.

“ The principle of good exerts itself
“ frequently in the bad mind, until
“ vice again destroys its activity; the
“ satisfaction of having done a good
“ action, is the triumph of the good
“ principle; there is no pleasure attends
“ the having done a bad one.

“ It is impossible the Creator should
“ be imagined any other than great and
“ good; he must be great, as he is
“ infinitely superior; and he must be
“ good, since when we call upon him
“ in the moment of adversity, or under
“ oppression, we trust he will relieve
“ us; but we never expect he will
“ assist us in exercising cruelty, or in
“ the

“the commission of vice: thus by our
“own reason, is the nature of God
“defined. Among the early professors
“of natural religion, if they expected
“aid from the Deity, they were careful
“not to offend him by the like crimes
“they complained of. It was thus
“right and wrong were determined,
“and the civil laws deduced from the
“laws of nature, since as men herded
“together in society, they were obliged
“for their common safety, to form a
“code of laws for the immediate
“punishing of crimes against the
“happiness of the community, though
“the inward appeals from the heart
“and the severer judgements of
“conscience were still vested in the
“power of the Deity. But when men
“began to associate and frame laws for
“their common security, stated seasons
“and forms of worship were established;
“because,

“ because having less to fear from others,
 “ the wisdom of the lawgivers found it
 “ necessary frequently to remind them
 “ of the principle, from which their
 “ happiness was derived, lest it should
 “ again be lost, and anarchy ensue; the
 “ political necessity of religion sufficient-
 “ ly appears, from its being the source
 “ of happiness to the people and the
 “ spirit of all law, religion is the princi-
 “ ple from which the laws are divided,
 “ and encourages to virtue as the law
 “ proscribes vice.

“ Our relation to the Deity is the pri-
 “ mary cause of human happiness, of
 “ which if insensible, we can have no fu-
 “ ture hopes, no pleasing assurances, no
 “ recompence for virtue to look to, but
 “ uncertain whether we shall be here-
 “ after, or why we exist at all, pass a
 “ life of doubt, impiety and wretch-
 “ edness.

“ The

“ The hope of a future life, is absolutely necessary to happiness, the mind without such an assurance would sink under the calamities it meets with in this world, or even if blessed with health and riches would distaste them all, as the uncertain owners of instant felicity.

“ Religion is then (cried the Doctor,) the only true philosophy, and I would recommend to you, instead of meddling with the works of dangerous, and mistaken men, to study the best of all books, the Bible, in almost every chapter of which you will find consolation in adversity, and precepts that will adorn the heart, and improve the understanding; there is no one who reads it with devotion, but will feel their sorrows soothed, and their griefs and anxieties charmed to rest.

“ The

“ The New Testament is the book of
 “ happiness ; in which is included every
 “ lesson to good, and every assurance
 “ that can give us peace and comfort ;
 “ the sermon on the mount directs us
 “ how to live, and the death of the Me-
 “ diator instructs us with what hope
 “ we may die. No deist can afford such
 “ consolation, no system of ethics can
 “ give us so rich a promise.”

Such was the doctrine, Dr. Willock
 used to inform me of the advantages of
 religion, and to secure my mind from
 those false and erroneous principles, which
 poison our happiness, and offend the Al-
 mighty goodness by presumptive en-
 quiries.

I was so thoroughly satisfied with the
 conversation of the good Doctor, that I
 felt not a little disappointed, when it was
 inter-

interrupted by our arrival at Hyde Park Turnpike, where I had requested to be set down, as I knew Dr. Willock lived somewhere not far distant, nothing could be more friendly, than the manner with which that worthy gentleman parted with me, he expressed his desire to be better acquainted, and told me that he resided when in town, in Upper Brook-street, where he should be happy to see me as often as I pleased.

I returned to Villars-street, not a little delighted, though a good deal agitated with my adventures, and soon retired to bed, where fatigue afforded me the rest, my tumult of spirits would willingly have denied.

CHAP. III.

Am sent with the Sheriffs officers, to put an execution into Mr. Atkinson's house.—The scene of distress which ensues, with a remarkable instance of providence.

THE moment was now arrived, that was to put an end to the little respite of happiness, given to my poor friend Mr. Atkinson, one of the instalments on the warrant of attorney not being duly kept to, I was sent to the office to sign judgment, and received the most positive orders, to see the execution put into his house, which however I evaded for a few minutes, and then went out, never to return any more. Unavailing compassion, is an uneasy companion; I burned with indigna-

dignation at the commands I had received, and which I knew, though not obeyed by me, would soon be put in force; though poverty stared me in the face, I triumphed over self interest, and felt—self satisfaction.

I run immediately to Mr. Atkinson's house; to acquaint him with the ill news, for I could not bear the thought of his amiable wife being alarmed, with the abrupt entrance of the officer, and his followers; poor Mrs. Atkinson and her husband were just sat down to dinner, but their danger would not allow me to be silent a moment, so that I prepared them as well as I could, for what I had to tell them, but it was no sooner discovered, than Mr. Atkinson threw down his knife and fork, and leant on the table in a thinking attitude, while his poor lady exclaimed in the accents

of wretchedness and despair: "What will become of us now?" The little dinner the amiable Mrs. Atkinson had prepared for her husband, was left untouched upon the table, the cruelty of suspense, and the expectation of their approaching ruin seemed to have absorbed every other idea, they remained almost motionless in their chairs, I tried in vain to comfort them, the blow of adversity was too sure to miss, and they anticipated all its force. A single loud knock was heard, Mrs. Atkinson trembled with fear, and her husband turned as pale as death, my agitation of spirits did not prevent me from calling to them, not to open the door; the caution was too late, the lodgers servant at the same instant came to the door, with the key, and innocently opened it to the officer, who walked into the parlour, with an air of busy importance,

portance, and executed his warrant with all the exactness of his profession. "Well," be it so, (cried Mr. Atkinson) the chapter of my misfortunes is full;" scarcely ever was seen a more distressful scene, every thing was left in disorder, the oeconomy of poor Mrs. Atkinson's table was disturbed by the rude hands of the bailiff, who examined every article, to see if they would bring the amount of the levy, and went into every room in the house, to make the same scrutiny, not excepting the bed chamber, the furniture of which they handled, as if it was already at the Sheriffs sale. There was nothing to be done; no friend to apply to; Mr. Atkinson ran to Mr. Flint, though he was almost certain in his mind, that he would not be seen, for that is the way such characters avoid the danger of being made to feel for their action the unwelcome interference of

humanity, the amiable Mrs. Atkinson had been some time leaning on the sofa in an attitude of silent prayer; it seems as if the Almighty, to make us sensible of our weakness, constantly reserves to himself, the ultimate relief of the wretched, and affords them, through unexpected agents, and what appears to be the mere effects of chance, unlooked for assistance; the extraordinary chain of events that plunges us in apparent ruin, is frequently the winding path that leads to happiness, and shews most clearly that a superior power governs the machinery of human life. " Providence," David used to say, " can set us to rights in a moment;" how often this observation has been verified, those who are acquainted with vicissitude very well know; it is in the hour of despair, or hopeless despondency, that the Deity himself deigns to assist us,

us, and what human skill and prudence could not bring about, or even hope present, at last happens as the mere effect of chance ; providence delights in shewing her power, at the moment of instant ruin.

As Mrs. Atkinson and myself were seated on the sofa, looking at each other, silent and overcome with grief, we heard a double knock at the street door, which was attended to by the man the officer had left in possession, who introduced, to my astonishment, Doctor Willock ; agitated as I was I felt a sudden glow of hope that delighted me, he ran immediately to Mrs. Atkinson, and embraced her with all the tenderness of a father. A torrent of tears was the only return she could make ; involved as I was in this mystery, my heart beat with pleasure : “ I did not think, young gentle-

“ man, (cried the Doctor) that we should
“ meet again so soon, much less that
“ the Mrs. Atkinson, you mentioned
“ in your history, was my dear Miss
“ Somerville, nor was I informed till
“ this morning, by an old servant of
“ Lord Moulton’s, who I chanced to
“ meet in the street, that she was mar-
“ ried to a gentleman of the name of
“ Atkinson. But why do you not speak
“ to me, (continued the doctor to Mrs.
“ Atkinson.)” “ Oh sir, (returned she,)
“ you have come to a scene of wretched-
“ ness and ruin, my happiness has been
“ over long since.” “ Do not say so
“ (cried the doctor,) but explain this
“ mystery : What has Mr. Flint
“ (cried he to me) put his designs in
“ execution against these good people ?”
“ He has, sir.” (said I.) Doctor
Willock now took hold of Mrs. Atkin-
son’s hand; “ Do not be alarmed (said
“ he)

“ he,) cheer up, providence is still your
“ friend. I consider my dear, (cried
“ the Doctor,) that the Almighty who
“ never yet forsook the good, has di-
“ rected me here this day, nor will I
“ neglect the opportunity that offers,
“ though my income is somewhat
“ lessened; but I have always a hun-
“ dred pounds put in a corner for
“ the unfortunate; be then thankful
“ to God, and be more composed.” Mr.
Atkinson returned at this moment un-
successful, his distraction of mind oc-
casioned him not to see the Doctor, for
he threw himself in a chair, without
speaking to any one, till I was about
to address him, when he started like
a madman, and cried out; “ what will
“ you never be satisfied.” I was some-
time before I could bring him to him-
self, though I mentioned Dr. Willock’s
kindness several times, he looked first

at me, then at him, and at last on his dear Lucy, when he became as senseless as before ; I managed however to gain his attention a few minutes, and related what had happened ; his answer was, “ It is certainly a dream.” Poor Mrs. Atkinson, who had held his hand all the time, was nearly overcome with joy, when she heard him speak collectedly, “ Oh sir, (cried he to the Dr.) extricate me from the hands of that rascal Flint, and I will bless you for ever, that hard hearted wretch, has ruined us. Oh ! my God ! “ are not these things noted in thy book ;” “ Yes, (cried Doctor Willock,) no doubt but they are, and he will soon suffer all the bitterness and anguish he has occasioned to others, with the additional pangs of an evil conscience to torment him ; but come (cried the Doctor,) let us see what is to be done, he will put
“ you

“you to more expence, unless he is prevented.” I suffered almost as much by the pleasing change that had happened, as I did from my friend’s distress; nothing could be more gratifying to a mind of sensibility than to see the lovely countenance of the amiable Mrs. Atkinson, recovering by degrees from the tempest that had overwhelmed its beauties.

Dr. Willock begged that I would accompany him to Mr. Harvey, his attorney, which I did with a great deal of pleasure; we were fortunate enough to find him at home, and he went with us immediately to Mr. Flint, who was in the office; “we are come, sir, (cried the doctor,) to enquire into the amount of your execution against your old friend, Mr. Atkinson;” “I

“shan’t tell any body that,” (returned Mr. Flint, unless they come to settle it.) “Suppose I should be come to settle it?” (replied the Doctor,) “why then sir, I’ll give you a receipt;” “Yes, sir, (said Doctor Willock,) and something more, for the sake of humanity, you shall be more explicit than you like;” “sir, (returned Mr. Flint,) I shall talk to nobody but the profession;” “you know I am of the profession, (cried Mr. Harvey,) but I must tell you there will be no accommodation between you and I in this business;” “very well, sir, (said he,) my clerk knows I have done right, why have you left me, Mr. Woodcock, (cried he,) in all this business, and where have you been?” I was fired with indignation at this reference; “I left your house this morning sir, (said I,)” “because

“ because I would no longer sacrifice
“ my peace and honour to assist your
“ oppression and injustice ;” “ what do
“ you say, sir ? (cried Mr. Flint,) I’ll
“ punish your insolence however.”
“ No sir, (interrupted Dr. Willock,)
“ this young gentleman is also under
“ my protection. I know sir, (con-
“ tinued he) that you think of making
“ him a debtor for the monies you
“ have given him, but sir, I insist on
“ knowing the amount of what he
“ really owes you ?” Mr. Flint re-
plied, “ that he should do as he liked
“ about that ;” “ well sir, (answered
the doctor) “ I am ready to pay the
“ money, and if you take any steps
“ against him, remember the court to
“ which you belong will do him justice.
“ Now sir, (cried he,) I leave you to
“ your reflections.” Mr. Flint would
not however permit us to go away so
easily,

easily, but almost in an instant changed his tone, for he began to have a sort of dread on his mind from the firmness and resolution the Doctor shewed ;
“ come sir, ” (cried he,) let us talk over
“ this business a little ; we are both
“ of us too hasty, I am sure ; so far
“ from injuring Mr. Atkinson, I would
“ do any thing to serve him, and will
“ even now withdraw the execution and
“ take a fresh warrant of attorney if he
“ can find security.” “ No sir, (re-
“ plied Dr. Willock,) you are mis-
“ taken, you shall never, if I can help
“ it, have those worthy people in your
“ power again ; God forbid that I
“ should punish you from revenge, but
“ I will if possible deprive you of the
“ professional power you have to do
“ harm.” In saying this, the doctor
left the room, and was followed by Mr.
Harvey and myself. We went imme-
diately

diately to give security to the sheriff, that the man who was left in possession might be removed, and then returned to drink tea with Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, who received us with the most lively expressions of gratitude; the principal character, however, amongst us, was the Doctor, who appeared greater in my sight after what he had done, than any king or potentate in the world. Never was an evening passed with more real satisfaction to us all. It was now Mr. Flint's turn to suffer fear and anxiety, for he had not only to dread his warrant of attorney being set aside, but also a strict examination into his conduct, which would ultimately occasion him to be struck off the roll.

Mrs. Atkinson was so good as to send to Villars-street for my trunk,
which

which my friend Sally Beefom took care to give the porter; so that I took up my new lodgings in Mrs. Atkinson's house; where I slept, I dare say, with more contentment than Mr. Flint, with all his acquisitions of money and situation.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

A discovery which convinces me of Miss Goodwill's generosity, if not of her love. I am promised an employ through the interest of Dr. Willock.—Visit Mr. Goodwill at his house in town.—A scene of disinterested love.—The folly of indulging extravagant ideas, and the disappointment that usually attends them.—A tender interview and farewell.

I HAD been too much engaged in Mrs. Atkinson's troubles, to think much of my own affairs, but as I had now more leisure, I retired to my room to contemplate afresh my adventure at Bristol, and to indulge more romantic ideas than ever. In this disposition of mind, I took out my dear Harriet's pocket

pocket book, and kiss'd it with all the transport love could give, when opening the pages, I was not a little surprised to find a bank bill for twenty pounds, folded up inside, and on the leaf opposite the following words wrote with a pencil, "a trifling present from " Harriet Goodwill to her friend Mr. " Woodcock." Though the motive of this generous girl was too plain to be mistaken, I was still determined to restore the note to the donor, as there was a possibility it might have been left there by accident, and besides, it would afford me an opportunity of seeing her as soon as she came to town.

During this interim, Dr. Willock's friendship for me seemed to increase every day, and at last he offered, if it was agreeable to me, to use his interest to

to obtain me a passage to Bengal, and to give me such letters of recommendation, as would promise very fairly to make my fortune in a few years. Desirable as such a situation might be to many, I felt only unhappy when it was mentioned, and suffered in idea the pangs of absence, and the torture of leaving my dear Harriet, whom I loved too much for advice or interest to remove the impression; however, as the Doctor's kindness merited the most grateful return, and as I knew his intentions were to preserve me from a passion which his reason told him would be unsuccessful, as well as to place me in a genteel situation, I resolved to accept an offer which would procure me an explanation with Miss Goodwill, and which if fortune favoured me, I could decline.

At

At last I heard the family were arrived in town, when I dressed myself and went elated with joy and expectation to Mr. Goodwill's house, in Park-lane. The advice that Dr. Willock had given me, sometimes came to my mind as I walked along the streets; but love, who despises the laws of prudence, and mocks discretion, hurried me to the spot where my dear Harriet was to be found. I was, on sending up my name, introduced to Mr. Goodwill, who received me with a great deal of politeness, while his charming daughter added to my welcome, by the most lively expressions of friendship and esteem. "You are come, (said she) just apropos, I wanted somebody to walk with me in the park, for my father is going into the city on business, and must take the coach with him." I replied, that I should

be

be very happy to attend her, and felt not a little delighted at a circumstance which would afford me so good an opportunity of talking with my dear Harriet. My heart fluttered a good deal when she gave me her arm, and we left her father's door; I believe my looks expressed the tumult of my mind. "You are not well, Mr. Woodcock," (cried she with some agitation) I answered, that I felt nothing but a slight head ach, and that it would soon go off; she insisted however, on my going back to the house and taking some refreshment, so that we returned home almost directly. Nothing is more difficult than the explanations of love. I felt now really ill; the drawing room was empty, Mr. Goodwill gone out, and the lovely Harriet seated next me on the sofa, enquiring into my health and spirits. I took an opportunity to offer

offer her the note, which she rejected in a manner as if she felt hurt at my reserve, for her fine eyes were almost filled with tears when she gave it me back, and told me, "it did not belong to her; but why (said she) are you so unhappy, do pray tell me." "I confess to you, Miss Goodwill, (said I) I have some cause to be low spirited; I am come to day, to take my leave of you." "What do you mean? Where are you going, (cried my Harriet) with some emotion." "Abroad." "Abroad!" (repeated Miss Goodwill, looking to the ground) "Yes, (answered I) tired of a wandering and comfortless existence, I have determined to go to the East Indies, and have obtained a passage through the interest of Doctor Willock, by this step, I shall as Shakespeare's Orlando says, "do my friends

“friends no injury.” For like him, I
“only fill up a space, which may be
“better supplied when I have made it
“empty.” At these words, the gentle
Harriet covered her face with her hand,
and I could perceive her lovely bosom
beat with the tumult I had raised.
“And have you no friends: (cried she)
“I believe Orlando had.” “He had,
“ (said I) but she was his mistress.”
“True, (returned Miss Goodwill) I
“had forgot that.” A moment’s pause
ensued, after which, I continued,
“Oh, Miss Goodwill, how wretched is
“the situation of the man who suffers
“hopeless love, and who is doomed to
“a cruel exile from all that is dear to
“him.” “That is not your case, I
“hope.” (cried Miss Goodwill) “In-
“deed (said I) it is, for the object of
“my esteem is so far above my hopes,
“that I have only to lament the
“accident

“ accident that first made me acquaint-
“ ed with her, and to mourn in secret
“ the want of that birth and fortune
“ which might entitle me to her hand.”
“ Indeed then, (said my dear Harriet)
“ I pity you, but much more the
“ woman who can make the want of
“ fortune, a bar to the merit of the
“ man she loves.” “ Perhaps she does
“ not.” (answered I) “ Why then
“ mistrust her?” (returned Miss Good-
will) “ Indeed I don’t know, (said I)
“ but in my situation, love is a pre-
“ sumptuous passion, and the world
“ teaches her to scorn or to neglect me.”
“ Who is she? (cried Miss Goodwill)
“ perhaps my situation might procure
“ her respect, and I might plead to
“ your advantage.” “ Perhaps you
“ might, (said I) for her name is
“ Harriet Goodwill; pardon (continued
“ I) my love, and pity my indiscretion;
“ it

“ it
“ yo
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“ it is the last time that it shall offend
“ you; I have expressed a passion that
“ loaded my heart with the weight of
“ concealment, and shall now wander a
“ willing fugitive from all I love.”

Miss Goodwill answered not a syllable, but leaned on the sofa a good deal agitated, I again solicited her pardon, she gave me her hand, I kissed it; she asked me for the pocket book she had given me, and I put it into her hand, she retired to the window and wrote something; I could observe her tremble all the time, and my heart felt for her situation; I was preparing to take my leave, but she retained my hand, and fell on the sofa; I was near ringing for her maid, when she came to herself again.

“ Do not leave me, Mr. Woodcock,
“ (cried she) pity your Harriet, pity
“ the conflict between her duty and
“ her love.” “ My Harriet! (returned

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“ I) is

“ I) is it possible you can call yourself
“ mine?” “ Read this and judge,”
(cried Miss Goodwill) putting the
pocket book into my hand with the
leaf open, when I read as follows:

“ Je suis a vous, Il y a long tems,
“ Ne craignez point le changement.”

While I repeated these words, my
Harriet leaned towards me to hide her
blushes, while I stole unnumbered kisses
from the lips that had pronounced my
happiness. Our agitation was soon
however succeeded by the most delight-
ful serenity, and by an interchange of
the sweetest expressions of love and
friendship, in the course of which, my
Harriet very archly asked me “ if I
“ meant to go to the East Indies.”
“ I assured her, that nothing should
“ ever make me leave her, unless her
“ father was an enemy to my hap-
“ piness.”

"piness." "We have only to act
"with discretion, (cried she) I have
"given you my heart, but it is not in
"my power to bestow my hand. My
"father has often assured me that he
"would never from motives of interest,
"bar my inclination; should, however,
"his pride or any other motive cause
"him to reject you, be secure in my
"love, and leave the rest to heaven."

I was too happy not to promise every thing my Harriet's prudence thought necessary, when it was agreed that we should appear before Mr. Goodwill with the same reserve as ever, until we should find an opportunity to explain to him our regard for each other. Miss James, who was a good natured and faithful girl, was however to be acquainted with our correspondence.

Mr. Goodwill returned home to dinner, and was so affable and good

natured when we were drinking our wine, that I was almost tempted to discover to him, my love for his daughter, and to trust to his liberality to favour my hopes; I had however, discretion enough to defer it till a better opportunity.

A few days after my interview with Miss Goodwill, I sat down to plan a letter to her father, without consulting any body, except Mrs. Atkinson, who approved it very much. It was, notwithstanding, with a good deal of hesitation that I sent it to his house; the contents were:

“ S I R,

“ I trust your goodness will
“ pardon the liberty I take in thus addressing you, since to reject my
“ hopes will be sufficiently severe,
“ without

“ without adding your resentment to
“ it; to be short, I have long since
“ loved Miss Goodwill; and I believe
“ I may flatter myself, I possess a
“ reciprocal esteem; pity then my
“ situation; I have no friend to assist
“ my cause; all that I have to offer
“ in my favour, is an honest heart.
“ You will ask, who and what I am,
“ and I must answer, (for I cannot use
“ dissimulation,) that I know not.
“ The mystery of my birth defeats all
“ enquiry, nor have I any reason to
“ think I shall ever be any thing more
“ than a poor wretched wanderer;
“ yet, before I knew Miss Goodwill, I
“ was humble and contented, nor do
“ I want any thing but her love, to
“ make me happy, for should you,
“ (what do I write!) should you fa-
“ vour my hopes, her fortune shall
“ be her own, all that I shall ask, will

“ be your friendship, that I may obtain some employ fit for the husband of your daughter. Thus is all my happiness in your hands, and may the Almighty direct you to decide for her good and your own peace.

“ Your most humble and

“ obliged servant,

“ WILLIAM WOODCOCK.”

I had too much love, and too little knowledge of the world, not to indulge the most sanguine expectations from my letter, for I had not yet learned that necessary maxim in life: “that to be certain of our success with any man, we must first put it out of his power to refuse us.” The next morning I had the following note from Mr. Goodwill in answer to my letter: “Mr. Goodwill wishes to see Mr. Woodcock to-morrow morning, if convenient.”

“convenient.” I was not a little elated at this appointment, which my vanity made me construe entirely in my favour, and I must own, that instead of returning thanks to that Deity who is the author of all good to man, and who has the power to dispose of circumstances in our favour, I went out the next day flushed with hopes of success, for which I depended on my own management and address. I found Mr. Goodwill in his study ready to receive me; he asked me very politely to sit down, but seemed much more thoughtful than usual. “Well, Mr. Woodcock, (cried he) I have sent to speak to you respecting your extraordinary letter, which I confess I do not yet rightly understand: I hope neither Miss Goodwill nor myself, have given you reason to encourage some of the ideas it contains;

“ if, as you say, you love her, I am
“ sorry for it, since it is utterly im-
“ possible that you can have my con-
“ sent. I lament exceedingly that
“ accident should have given you a
“ claim on my friendship, that makes
“ what I say appear unpleasant; I
“ must not however, let a romantic
“ adventure get the better of my
“ reason, though I may feel an ob-
“ ligation to you for assisting my
“ daughter; I know we sometimes read
“ such things in novels, but they are
“ very scarce in real life; it is necessary
“ we should act with propriety.” He
remained silent a moment; I was in-
capable of making any reply: at last he
continued: “ Mr. Woodcock, do not
“ think me severe, as a father, it is my
“ duty to study the interest of my
“ child: you have neither family or
“ fortune to recommend you; I do
“ not

“ not mention this, by way of re-
“ proach, for they are gifts which
“ in this world make a consideration;
“ you will I hope then drop this sub-
“ ject for ever, which if you will pro-
“ mise me to do, I shall be happy to
“ do you any service in my power;”

I really believe, I should have been
unable to have made any reply, had
it not been for a spark of indignation,
that made its way to my breast.

“ It is in your power sir, (said I,) to act
“ as you please, nor need you fear the
“ censure of the world in rejecting so
“ humble a suitor, it is only the power-
“ ful who dare resent, my complaints
“ will not be noticed, I give you my
“ word, that I will relieve your daugh-
“ ter from my addresses, and that I
“ will go where you shall never hear
“ of me again, you have the power to
“ prevent my happiness, but you have

“ not the power to make me love your
“ daughter less; I begin to perceive
“ I have indulged romantic hopes, do
“ me the justice, however, to own that
“ I have not acted with the dissimula-
“ tion I might have done.” “ It is
“ much to your honour, young gentle-
“ man, (cried Mr. Goodwill) somewhat
“ softened, and if you chuse in return,
“ for that open conduct, to accept my
“ friendship upon any other terms,
“ than my daughter’s hand, you shall
“ have it.” “ No sir, (said I,) I shall
“ be too wretched to derive any happi-
“ ness from the advantages of situation,
“ and shall with pleasure resign the
“ friendship of the great, to be indepen-
“ dent of them, though it were in the
“ humblest lot.”

As soon as I had left Mr. Goodwill,
I repented of the rash promise my pride
had

had occasioned me to make, as its fulfilment would involve my dear Harriet in as much distress as myself, a useful lesson to those who have more spirit than prudence. I wandered from Mr. Goodwill's house into the park, to indulge reflections that would not be amused. "How cruel and malignant, " (said I,) is my fate above that of others, " without a friend to assist my hopes, " feeling at the same time, the keenness of disappointed love, and the " curse of poverty, which can render " the most independent mind contemptible." I thought of the motto on my ring, and could not help reproaching myself for deserting the dependence my mother had so often bid me trust to, and attributing the ill success of the morning, to my presumption and vanity, in trusting to human skill and management in the

direction of my affairs. In this disposition I returned home, too much out of spirits to be pleased with any thing that day, though my dear friend Mrs. Atkinson did all she could to divert my mind.

The next morning, a letter was brought me by a porter, the superscription of which was in my dear Harriet's handwriting, the contents were :

“ MY DEAR WILLIAM,

“ For such you are now, since your
“ misfortunes give you a claim in my
“ heart, riches might never have done,
“ let the love of your Harriet balance
“ the treatment you have met with
“ from her father, for she will no longer
“ hesitate to avow an honourable pas-
“ sion, that is above interest and the
“ world. To these assurances I will
“ add

“ add another, that though your Har-
“ riet will never offend a parent, by
“ marrying against his consent, yet she
“ will not be compelled to bestow her
“ hand, against her inclination; await
“ then happier days, and trust in the
“ sincerity and truth of

“ Your

“ HARRIET GOODWILL.”

Delighted as I felt at the generous avowal Miss Goodwill made to me of her affection, the insurmountable bars placed against me, only involved me in deeper distress, and I cursed the precipitancy a hundred times that occasioned my promise to Mr. Goodwill. The burthen on my mind was too great to be borne. I hastened to Dr. Willock, whose advice I had not asked before, to lay open to him, the cruelty of my situation, and to tell him what had passed between
me

me and Mr. Goodwill ; my worthy patron blamed me a little for my reserve, and said he should readily have foreseen my disappointment, if I had made him acquainted with my intentions ; “ I am
“ sorry (said he,) you have gone so far in
“ this business, because it has only been
“ planting a thorn in your own breast,
“ Miss Goodwill is dutiful, and her father is inexorable, what then have you
“ to hope ; it is very true that it will signify very little his withholding his consent from interested motives, when at
“ the same time, he will abate the affection of a good child, and make his life
“ wretched : One would think (cried Dr. Willock,) that it were our greatest interest to be happy, and I will
“ declare thus much in your favour ;
“ that had I a daughter, I would much
“ sooner give her to a young man
“ whom she loved, and who would be
“ likely

“ likely to improve my fortune, than
“ to a man of fashion, who would
“ perhaps think he had a right to
“ spend it. But (cried he,) if you
“ will follow my advice, fly from the
“ danger that threatens your peace,
“ absence is the only way to restore
“ your mind to tranquility, even had
“ you not made so sacred a promise to
“ Mr. Goodwill ; go then where your
“ fortune directs you ; with the satisfac-
“ tion of having acted with pru-
“ dence and honour ; I will (said he)
“ obtain for you a passage in the Phoenix
“ East Indiaman, which will sail in a
“ fortnight for Bengal ; you will go to
“ that country with more advantages,
“ than many who have made rapid
“ fortunes, and may perhaps return in
“ a few years, when you may have
“ claims, that may make Mr. Good-
“ will repent his having rejected you.”

Pride

Pride most frequently turns the scale of human actions, so that together with the disappointment and vexation I felt, it is not to be wondered at, that I accepted Dr. Willock's offer, but as for happiness, I could not expect it any way.

When I returned home, I wrote in the anguish of my heart, the following lines to Miss Goodwill.

“ MY DEAR GOOD HARRIET,

“ How kind and generous was
“ the letter you sent me, and how
“ much did it allay the pain I had suffered;
“ may your disinterested heart
“ be blest with peace and happiness for
“ it, yet my dear girl you cannot bestow
“ on me more than good wishes,
“ the bar is fixed between us, cemented
“ by interest and pride, in the
“ moment

“ moment of resentment I made your
“ father a promise to quit the king-
“ dom, which I am bound in honour
“ to keep, and this letter contains my
“ adieu. May I soon return better
“ qualified for his esteem! but
“ that is the extravagance of hope.
“ I have only to trust to your fidelity,
“ and that Providence, which may
“ perhaps one day or other explain the
“ mystery of my birth. Adieu, and
“ may Heaven bless my ever dear
“ Harriet.

“ Your faithful and sincere lover,

“ WM. WOODCOCK.”

I sent the above letter inclosed to Miss James, and was not many hours before I received a note from her, with an appointment to meet Miss Goodwill in the fields, near Kilburn. I attended punctually at the appointed time,

time, and wandered from the footpath to indulge my melancholy; at last, tired of walking, I sat down on a bank under a tall shadowy elm, the sun was going down, and its rays gilded every object about me; all nature seemed lively and pleasant, the moths and butterflies fluttering about the hedge where I was, and the swallows skimming round me, while the lark closed his evening song almost in the clouds. I became enraptured with the scene, and almost forgot the pain that was within my breast, till I saw my dear Harriet at a distance, waving her handkerchief towards me, her attendant was amusing herself, gathering some field flowers; as I approached my Harriet, she gave me her hand, which I kissed with ecstasy; we then both remained silent for some minutes, till I mentioned my departure, every word of which brought the tears in her eyes;

eyes ; the scene was almost too tender to bear ; she complained of her father, who, she said, had talked to her more severely than he had ever done in his life, and insisted on her giving up her romantic love for his happiness. “ But, “ (said she) do not fear me ; no force “ shall ever make me marry another ; “ and if I must bear the wretched reflection of your being absent, it shall “ be sweetened with constancy and “ hope.” To add to my happiness, my Harriet gave me her picture ; “ this (said she) I may dispose of, it “ was a gift from my mother ; nor shall “ I hesitate to say, that I parted with “ it to an injured youth that I loved, “ and who deserved the love of every “ body.” I had so much to say, and was so unwilling to part with my Harriet, that it was near dark before I left her near her father’s house.”

“ Adieu

“ Adieu (cried she, as I took my leave)
“ and may Heaven grant we may meet
“ again sooner than we think, and
“ that my father’s prejudices may be
“ removed by the firmness of our
“ love, and the merits of my poor
“ William.” I imprinted a thousand
kisses on her lips, as she pronounced
this blessing, and after shaking hands
with my friend Miss James, walked
away with a heart loaded with anguish
and despair. I returned home to Mrs.
Atkinson, whose bosom was the re-
ceptacle of all my cares, and in whose
friendship only I found relief.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

The wheel of fortune takes a surprising turn against Mr. Flint.—I take leave of my friends, and amongst the rest David Dobbins, who I find married to Miss Lydia Holdtighst.—I go on board a ship.—A sketch of a sailor's life.—We sail from the Downs.

THE change that had taken place in my dear friend Mrs. Atkinson's affairs, seemed to promise her as much happiness as it threatened misfortune to Mr. Flint, against whom Dr. Willock had moved the court, who had been long watchful to find an occasion to strike such a miscreant off the roll; for his practice was too well known to the judges, to let him escape unnoticed,

so

so that after affidavits were heard on both sides, it was ordered that the warrant of attorney should be set aside, and that Mr. Flint should pay all the costs, and be committed to Newgate, till he had answered interrogatories, which not being able to do, he was struck off the roll, and narrowly escaped being indicted for perjury; to add to his distress, his daughter about the same time eloped with a young attorney's clerk, who was not able to keep her, and had become a common prostitute on the town, in the most low and abandoned situation. Such was the end of Mr. Flint's career, whose life had been a chapter of iniquity and corruption; in reading over which, human nature must shudder, and pity shed a tear; but the sentence passed against him was sealed by Heaven, for he now felt in his turn all the anguish of poverty and contempt.

The

The ship in which I was to sail for the East Indies, being ready to leave the river, I had scarcely time left to take leave of my friends. I was however determined to walk to Peterham, to see my old fellow traveller Miss Atkins, whom I found very readily, though not by that name, for she was now Mrs. Howell. These good people received me with so much real hospitality, that I was obliged to stay with them much longer than I intended.

My next visit too was to poor David, whom I had shamefully neglected during my engagements with Miss Goodwill. I found my old friend seated in the chimney corner, blowing the fire, to boil some mutton broth, and fuming, because his operations did not succeed to his mind; it immediately struck me, from these circumstances, that he was married,

married, in which idea he presently confirmed me, by saying, that he was made a happy man just a fortnight before at St. Giles's church, and that he believed he had now every reason to think himself snug, for his wife had three hundred pounds in the stocks, and was one of the elect. I was obliged to congratulate my friend upon the occasion, though I was pretty well convinced by the woefulness of his face, that the elect, usurped no little authority over the poor sinner. I had no sooner told David that I was going to the East Indies, than he started up in his chair, " Surely, (cried he) then my dream's out, for I thought I saw ye the other night, mounted upon an elephant, with a coronet upon your head, galloping along Tottenham-court-road; I told it my wife at breakfast, but she paid no attention, " because

“ because she said, it was not a visitation ;” much as I was inclined to laugh at this simplicity, I could not help being affected, when he took hold of my hand at parting : “ God bless you, “ (cried he) that is the best wish I can “ give you ; and may you return soon, “ and marry Miss Goodwill, and be as “ happy as possible, have only patience, “ and remember, that all things will “ work together for your good.”

I returned home a good deal comforted, by the well meant endeavours of poor David to cheer me, who was the best friend I had ever known in distress, for he would always try to raise the unfortunate, by his philosophy or humour, and assist them as far as his abilities would afford.

The next morning, I took my leave of Doctor Willock, who behaved to me

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with all the kindness of a father, applauded my resolution, and desired that I would draw on him, for whatever money I should have occasion for, besides which he gave me sufficient for my expences in the voyage; thus it might be said, that I possessed more of the advantages of fortune, than I had any reason to expect; but I wanted, what is worth them all, a happy mind. I had now only to part with Mr. Atkinson and his wife, who loaded me with presents, and gave me a hundred good wishes for my safety.

I set out the next day with a heavy heart for Gravesend, where the ship lay, and arrived on board her in the afternoon, the captain to whom I had letters was unluckily in town, so that I walked the deck some hours without being noticed by any body, till at last
a good

a good looking man in a blue coat, who appeared to be an officer, in a blunt way, asked me down to his birth, where he gave me some excellent salt pork and pease soup for dinner, which I relished exceedingly; as I had obtained my passage as a free mariner, I found that it was the custom that I should mess with the mates, so that at night, my cot was hung up in the birth next my good friend Walker's, who was the person who had asked me down; I had however very little rest, for never having laid in such a machine before, I fell out, once or twice, so that by the time I fell asleep, it was all on one side; in the morning I was awakened by the noise of washing decks, and was obliged to get up to make room for breakfast, which was set out in great order by a little sailor boy, who attended the mess, and consisted of tea, biscuits, and but-

ter, I was now introduced to two more of my messmates, who appeared to be very good natured young men, though rough, and unpolished in their manners.

It was not long before I became reconciled to my new situation, I found, though my companions had not much of the manners of gentlemen, they possessed a certain honest character which made them valuable, the bold and rough humour peculiar to a seaman, seems necessary to carry him through the fatigues and labour of his vocation, thus every moment unoccupied by duty, is passed in singing, drinking, and jesting with each other; a mate's birth is the true temple of Momus (if I may so call it) where wit, humour, and riot are kept up without any interval, but the watch on deck, or when all hands are called. My friend Walker endeavoured

voured to make my situation comfortable, he was a good honest creature, and a thorough seaman, beloved by all the ship's company, and respected by his superior officers; he was third mate, and had a great share of the hardest duty to do; rough hewn as he was, he possessed a great deal of natural good sense, and would frequently converse when he was in the humour, on subjects quite opposite to his profession; generosity, honesty, and courage, were the grand traits of his disposition, his manner was to be sure rather unpleasant, to those who did not know the value of his mind, but he could with all his bluntness, find tenderness to console the unhappy, and liberality to assist the distressed. Surely we ought to admire and esteem the man, who with fortitude bears with the hardships of the sea, and for a small recompence of pay, is at once faithful, honest

and brave, qualities not so often to be found on shore.

The captain having come on board, I waited on him with my letters, and was received by him with so much good nature and politeness, that I began already to like him very much. Orders were now given to get underway, which was signified to the ship's company by the Boatswain's piping: "All hands up, anchor," at which sound, I confess, I felt some touches of regret, on leaving my native country, for though I had no father, no mother, no sister to lament, still the chain of affection was strong; all the world would have been the same to me, had not my Harriet, the beautiful object of my extravagant love, held such a place in my mind; alas, it was not easy to forget her, and though I had had no picture to have brought her to
my

my recollection, she would still have been present to my imagination, delineated with all the truth of a lover's fancy ; I endeavoured sometimes to reason with the passion I had indulged, and to overcome its impressions, by favouring less dangerous subjects ; but it was in vain, true to love, my ideas only vibrated a little and returned to the same point ; I grew sick at heart, with a life that promised only a forlorn and wretched existence, destitute of the comforts of friendship, and tormented with the pangs of absence.

The whole ship's company were now employed getting up the anchor ; which manœuvre was accompanied by the drum and fife playing all the time, we were soon underway, and set sail for the Downs, where we arrived the afternoon of the next day ; at this place there came

on board several of the cabin passengers, and amongst the rest a lady who particularly engaged my attention ; she was under the middle size, very comely, and had a beautiful and expressive face, her manner was so easy and complaisant, that it delighted every body about her ; she appeared to be a person of some distinction, and possessed all the ease and elegance of deportment, peculiar to rank.

As the wind was fair, we did not lay many days in the Downs, but were soon underway again, never was seen a more beautiful landscape, than now presented itself ; the weather was remarkably fine, while the sun shining on the distant towers and steeples, made them glisten with its rays ; a wide expanse of blue was terminated by the chalky cliffs of Dover, at the heights, contrasted by
the

the most beautiful verdure, on which were seen grazing innumerable flocks of sheep.

The fineness of the day had engaged several of the cabin passengers to walk the quarter deck, I was invited to dine with the captain, when it happened to be my lot, to sit next the charming Mrs. Wallace; the conversation of a sea captain's table, though seldom precise and ceremonious, is, where there are ladies, always kept within the bounds of propriety; Mrs. Wallace seemed to enjoy the manner of a sea life exceedingly, and asked me a number of questions about it, which I could answer tolerably well, as I had the advantage of having been a few weeks on board before her. Captain Manly endeavoured as much as possible, to make every thing agreeable to his company;

pany; I could not help admiring his noble carriage, which appeared to the greatest advantage, as it was blended with gentleness of manner, and even politeness; he was generous and humane, the best of all characters for an English commander; I rose after dinner to take my leave, which the captain would not permit; "Come young gentleman, (cried he,) sit down, you are the man for the ladies; you must sing us a song." It was in vain to resist the solicitations of the company, particularly Mrs. Wallace, who insisted on my compliance, I sung a fashionable air, which was very much admired, the glass now went round very freely, and I had the pleasure of an unreserved conversation, with the amiable Mrs. Wallace, and Captain Manly, who made us drink several good toasts and sentiments.

When

When night came, I retired to my cot, my mind somewhat relieved, by the succession of new ideas, in which I was involved; my dreams however, sufficiently shewed the bias of my thoughts, for I fancied that I was returned again to London, and in company with Miss Goodwill, and her father.

CHAP. VI.

A Shipwreck.

WE lay too all the next day off Beachy, with a contrary wind, which blew very fresh, I cannot say that I felt sea sick, though the ship had a great deal of motion; I should however have very gladly gone to my cot, had not my friend Walker, who had the first watch, kept me upon deck to talk with him; indeed it was impossible to help being amused, with the stories he told me, between the times his duty required him, which consisted chiefly of his adventures on shore, or rather in London, among the girls at the play-houses, taverns, &c. however, the conversation before the hour glass run out, took

took another turn, the subjects were, ghosts, murders, actions at sea, and fights by land, all which we touched upon, without either train or connection; at last having pretty well tired ourselves out, Walker proposed that we should go down and *saw away* as he called it, upon some salt grub, never did I see such a spectacle as our birth presented, the cot in which I lay, from the heel of the ship, swung half over the table, on which was a pewter plate with some salt junk, a pile of sea biscuits, the quarter master's lanthorn, and a black jack filled with swipes, which was presently overturned by the motion of the ship, and nearly emptied amongst the victuals; my friend Walker did not express the least astonishment, at the deplorable state of things before him, but sat himself very contentedly down on a chest, and began to cut away
on

on the salt beef, which he put on a biscuit, and then going to the liquor case, made himself a drop of flip, with what remained in the black jack ; it was in vain, that I remonstrated against the uncleanness of his food, all the reply Walker made, was ; “ Lord what does “ it signify, what won’t poison, will “ fatten ; there’s a little difference “ Bill (cried he,) between being aboard “ a ship, and ashore drinking tea with “ the ladies, this is a sailor’s life, ye “ dog, how do you like it ? well, here’s “ to sweet hearts and wives ;” though I did not much like the beverage, I very readily drank a toast, which included my dear Harriet, whose name I gave in addition : “ Damme Bill, “ (cried Walker,) if you an’t a confounded fool, I can’t say much about “ it neither, for I was up to the ears “ once in love myself ; but the want of “ money,

“ money, threw me all aback; Polly
“ loved me I believe, she was a nice
“ girl, and danced like an angel, but
“ her father loved the rhino; I have
“ kept many a long watch at the door
“ of her house, to chase her when she
“ came out to go to church, however,
“ old Skinflint was too deep for me,
“ and she was married to an attorney,
“ so my poor Polly sold herself to the
“ devil to oblige her father.”

There was some parts of Walker's story had too much analogy with my own, for me to be much entertained with the subject, which however he seemed very unwilling to drop, even after we went upon deck; we were however, soon taken from our conversation, by the captain sending out orders to bear away again for the Downs; nothing can appear more dreadful to a
landsmen

landsman on board a ship, than the working the sails at night, all is noise and confusion ; I would gladly have gone below, but was afraid of passing the seamen, who were hauling the braces, and who take no care but to mind their duty. It began now to blow so very fresh, that the officers of the watch thought proper to reef the top-sails, when it was discovered that the foretopmast was sprung ; my friend Walker, who was always the first on duty, went aloft himself to see if the mast was in danger, when presently we were alarmed with a cry from the fore-top, which informed us some accident had happened, and looking astern, saw very distinctly a man buffeting the waves, which shortly overpowered him. Alas ! it was my poor friend Walker. It appeared that as he was in the fore top, stooping to examine the mast, his
hat

hat fell off, which he endeavoured to catch, and unfortunately losing his hold fell over the top rim; though the moon shone, and my poor messmate kept himself above water some minutes, it would not have been possible to save him, as he must have gone to the bottom, before we could have hove the ship too; I went down below to my birth as soon as I could, very much overcome with fatigue, but to sleep was impossible, my honest messmate's cot was hung close to mine, and his cloaths left lying about the birth, I could not help repeating when I saw them; "Poor Walker, where does he sleep now." I lay for some hours disturbed with these reflections, and was only just fallen asleep, when I was alarmed with a dreadful shock, which almost threw me forward out of my cot, and heard the sailors cry out; "The ship's aground!" I jumped out

out of my cot in a moment, but the shocks were so suddenly repeated, that I was hardly able to stand on my legs, I opened the door of the birth, and saw the quarter master coming down the hatchway, with a countenance filled with terror, and a lanthorn in his hand, who with the motion of the ship, fell down the ladder, and his light was extinguished ; so that I was involved in total darkness, nothing could be more horrid than this situation, all above was noise and confusion, and I could hear indistinctly the shrieks of female voices, and the language of alarm and fear, spread along the decks. However after a great deal of difficulty, I found my way up the after hatchway, it was now that I had a just idea of the intrepidity of an English sailor, the captain was upon deck, giving orders perfectly cool and collected ; whilst the
other

other officers were active in their different stations, the man who was heaving the lead, sung out; "Quarter less four," so that we found the ship hung upon a reef of rocks, and that the land was close under the lee, several guns had been fired to leeward, and lanthorns hoisted at the mast head; our situation became now more alarming every moment, as we were no sooner got over one reef of rocks, than we struck upon another, and with such violence, that we expected to go to pieces every instant; the captain gave orders at last for the masts to be cut away, which however, he was dissuaded from enforcing by the advice of the chief mate, who rested all his hopes on carrying a press of sail, to force the ship clear of the rocks, the passengers were by this time upon deck, and amongst the rest, Mrs. Wallace, who fainted away

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away upon the quarter deck, it was not a time for her to receive many attentions from the officers of the ship, who were obliged to attend their duty, so that I was the only one, who afforded her any assistance; however distressing our situation might have been, I could not help smiling at the ludicrous appearance of some of the officers, who came up the after hatchway, in their fright nearly undrest; amongst others was the doctor's mate, and never hardly was seen a more grotesque figure; over a pale face expressive of horror and despair, was a white night cap, which raised by the bristles of his hair, stood up an end, he had on the right leg an old boot, and on the left a silk stocking, not above half drawn on, and in this pitiable situation, was holding fast by one of the braces, almost up to his knees in water; the purser was the next, without
his

his wig, and his coat in his hand, enquiring of all about ; “ Whether they thought the ship would get off,” he was however at last interrupted by a little fat man, the ship’s barber, who clung fast round his waist, crying out, “ oh lord ! what will become of us ; oh my poor wife !” in which ejaculation, he was interrupted by the chief mate, who gave the poor little barber such a violent blow on the head, that he fell all along into the lee scuppers, and being unable to stop himself from the motion of the ship, rolled over several times in the water.

Our danger however now encreased too much for me, to pay any other attention, than what humanity or personal safety required, for almost every idea I had was absorbed in the horror and confusion of the scene ; the ship now
beat

beat so violently, that the captain ordered the boats to be hoisted out, the water in the hold to be started, and the guns (such as we had upon deck,) thrown overboard; and at last, the masts to be cut away; dreadful indeed was the scene that followed, yet did not the courage and intrepidity of the seaman fail him even at this moment, for the wreck was cleared away with great alacrity; it required now the constant efforts of the hands at the chain pumps, to keep the ship free from water; the exertions of the boatswain and the carpenter were astonishing, while the faculties of some of the landsmen, were so absorbed with fear, that they knew not what they were about; for my own part, I began now to feel all the terror natural to my situation, and should have sunk into a senseless torpidity, had I not been engaged in encouraging Mrs. Wallace,

Wallace, who was almost frantic in my arms; a thought of my Harriet, however, occurred, and I felt a pang of love amidst the horrors of a shipwreck; I had placed my mother's ring in my bosom, and was resigned to my fate, let it be what it might; though I could not divest myself of the idea, that I should be saved.

The wind had considerably abated for some time, but the sea still run very high, the twilight however appearing, we were able to discern the situation of the ship, which was beyond any thing distressful, the decks cleared of every thing, the stumps of the masts only remaining, and the planks starting asunder, with every shock of the ship against the rocks, which proved to be a reef that run off from the shore of Hastings.

The

The exertions of the seamen, which had all along been kept up with fortitude and activity, began now to fail; wearied out with unsuccessful endeavours at the pump, they became stagnated with horror, a general panic was spread among the ship's company, and all was awful silence; the captain however begged his people to keep by the ship till day-light, and to renew their efforts at the pumps, which was in spite of fatigue obeyed with that alacrity, which has ever been the characteristic of an English sailor; however, a party of landsmen, and some desperate wretches whose cowardice would not permit them to share an equal fate with the rest, got into the launch, though the sea run so high that it was impossible that the boat could live; they had no sooner left the ship's side, than the wind lulled all at once, and

to

to increase our hopes, day-light began to appear; the ship was now almost compleatly water logged, the beams started, and the stern-post loosened, nor had we any reason to think that she could hold together a quarter of an hour longer; we looked in vain for the boat that had left us, and began to fear it must have gone to the bottom, so many of the ship's crew had imprudently crouded themselves into her. Our situation began now to lose some of its horrors, it was broad day-light, and to raise our hopes, we discovered a brig at a distance, which seemed bearing down to us. It is impossible to describe the transport of the crew at this sight, a shout of joy was spread from the quarter-deck to the forecastle, and the exhausted passengers looked up once more with hope to Heaven; poor Mrs. Wallace returned

thanks on her knees, while the captain heartened up the ship's company with the welcome sight; every one was engaged in observing the motions of this vessel, which was still at a distance; but what was the agony we suffered, when we beheld her haul her wind again, it was now concluded that she had not seen us, till one of our fore-castle men, who had been in the coal trade, gave us fresh hopes, by saying that she was obliged to haul close upon a wind to avoid an eddy which run in shore. Happily for us, it was as he said, and she presently bore away again, and to our unspeakable satisfaction, hoisted English colours, and immediately hoisted out her boats, which were sent to our assistance; the officer who came along-side was astonished at the distressful situation of the ship, it was impossible however to suppress the eagerness

eagerness of the crew to save themselves, who without distinction leaped into the boat, which would have endangered her, had not the officer prudently put off from the ship-side. I managed with some difficulty to carry Mrs. Wallace in my arms into the second boat, for to that amiable woman's fate I had annexed my own, so careless are we of personal danger, when a female wants our assistance and protection. We had not got many yards from the ship before she went to pieces.

The sea run so very high, that it was with great difficulty the females were got into the brig, faint and overcome as they were with the fatigue of the morning; the captain received us with all the generosity that marks the seaman's character, and told us that

he had heard the guns we fired, but was afraid of coming too near in with the land. It was now discovered that we had drifted a great deal, while hove too the day before, owing to a strong current, and that we had afterwards steered too much to the northward. Danger is no sooner past than it becomes a subject of curiosity and entertainment. A few hours were only passed in sleep, to refresh the wearied spirits of the shipwrecked passengers, and the rest of the day was passed in describing the horror of the scene we had escaped from, and in returning thanks to Providence; Mrs. Wallace expressed herself to me with the most extravagant warmth of friendship, for the assistance I had afforded her. "Oh, " Mr. Woodcock, (cried she) I owe " my life to your generosity and con- " tempt of danger, what return can " I ever

“ I ever make you ; it will delight me
“ to serve you. I have observed a
“ melancholy about your manner,
“ which convinces me that you feel
“ some pain at heart ; make me your
“ confident, if it is from any pecuniary
“ difficulties, I have the power to re-
“ move them ; and if it is love which
“ has taken root so deeply in your
“ mind, whatever bars may prevent
“ your happiness, I will interest myself
“ for you ; my rank and fortune will
“ give me the power most likely to
“ espouse your cause with success.”
“ Madam (returned I) I am highly
“ sensible of your goodness, but the
“ offers you make me, are too late ;
“ I will candidly avow that I do love,
“ but it is a wretched hopeless passion
“ I indulge ; you owe the assistance
“ I gave you, to my love for the whole
“ sex, and to my carelessness of an
H 3 “ exist-

“ existence which I set at little value ;
“ the shipwreck had few horrors for
“ me ; dissolution would only have
“ been the end of a wretched unsatis-
“ factory life, loaded with disappoint-
“ ments and difficulties, which even
“ your kindness cannot remove.”

Mrs. Wallace listened very attentively to what I said, and expressed herself very desirous to know the particulars of my story, which I promised to relate to her ; however, as it was too late that night, we each of us retired to the cabins the generous captain had resigned to us, and enjoyed once more an undisturbed sleep.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Go to London with Mrs. Wallace.—The friendship I meet with from that lady.—I enter into what is called genteel life.—Am introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Summers.—Their character, and the manner in which they receive me.—Mrs. Wallace goes to Scotland.—I lavish away my money, and feel the consequences of extravagance and indiscretion.—Visit my friend Mrs. Howell.

THE brig that had assisted us was going to the Downs, at which place we arrived early in the morning, when Mrs. Wallace insisted upon my going ashore with her, which offer I was very glad to accept, as I had lost all my things, and stood in need of a

friend; Mrs. Wallace provided herself with money as soon as we landed, and a post-chaise was immediately hired to carry us to town; never was I more delighted than with the behaviour of this charming woman, her manner, though unreserved and free, was protected by the best of hearts, and the most virtuous dignity of mind. When we arrived in town, Mrs. Wallace went to a relation's house in St. James's Place, and as she had obliged me to accept a bank-bill for a hundred pounds, and meant me further kindness, I thought proper to take a very handsome lodging in Ryder-street.

The circumstances of the shipwreck being in all the papers, I wrote immediately to my dear Harriet, to inform her of my safety, and called upon my friends Dr. Willock and Mrs. Atkinson, who

who received me with joy, after the danger I had escaped; Dr. Willock informed me, that Miss Goodwill was at Bristol, so that it was impossible for Mrs. Wallace to get introduced to that family, which she intended to do for my sake, had they been in town. I continued some time very happy in the friendship of this lady, till some of her affairs required her to go to Scotland; Mrs. Wallace was however too generous to leave me deserted; she introduced me to several of her friends, and made me another present of one hundred pounds, besides having obtained a promise from her brother, to procure me the first place that should be vacant in his department under government. I was however very far from being happy; nor was any thing agreeable to me without the presence of my dear Harriet; this unsettled state of mind soon

H 5 proved

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proved dangerous to me, for I began to indulge myself in those amusements which drive away thought; indeed, I was out of temper with prudence, that had afforded me no good, and thus went into the opposite extreme; I lived in genteel stile, visited the playhouses, and formed a promiscuous acquaintance with persons who called themselves gentlemen, and who followed a life of dissipation and extravagance; amongst the rest was a Mr. Summers, a man of the most engaging manners and address; this gentleman invited me to his lodgings in Pall-Mall, whither I went the first opportunity; the door was opened by a livery servant, and I was ushered into a parlour, elegantly furnished; I waited only a few minutes before Mr. Summers came down, dinner was not quite ready, so that we entered into conversation on the

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the news of the day, and other subjects, on which I found him very well informed; Mr. Summers possessed all the accomplishments necessary to a gentleman, and shewed them to the greatest advantage, Mrs. Summers's entrance only interrupted us, to afford us additional pleasure; she was a little delicate woman, exquisitely formed, and possessed of all those winning attractions that are certain of being admired, her eyes expressed the volatility of her mind, and the brilliancy of her imagination. I think I hardly ever saw two people possessed of more engaging manners than Mr. and Mrs. Summers, a superior address, and an air of dissipation, however they may be suspected by the man of the world, always serves to dazzle the ignorant; thus unacquainted with the many resources a man of ingenuity has for making a

figure, they consider that he must be a person of fortune, and continue deceived, till they suffer for their credulity, our company consisted at dinner, of a Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Lawson, a very beautiful woman, a confident of Mrs. Summers, Mr. Summers, and myself; I had the good fortune to be seated next the mistress of the house, who did the honours of her table, to the greatest advantage, every thing was easy and pleasant, regardless of herself, she shewed the greatest attention to her visitors, and was wholly occupied in attending to them; no hurry, no confusion, was to be seen at Mrs. Summers's table, nothing was neglected, and nothing misplaced, or forgot; in short, I was delighted with the manner in which Mr. Summers lived, which seemed to comprise all I ever wished to attain to, for I had always considered great riches, and high rank,

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as dangerous to happiness, I was charmed during the conversation at dinner, with the wit and double entendre, made use of by Mr. and Mrs. Summers, they possessed a happy sort of complimentary raillery, which rather pleases than wounds the object of its satire, Mr. Summers amused us all with his humour, which though it was too delicate to offend, conveyed all the ideas he wished to express, to the greatest advantage; there was no person silent at the table, except Mr. Jackson, who was a stout man, in his own hair, and very plainly dressed, who seemed entirely engaged in eating his dinner, though he sometimes listened with astonishment, to the polite conversation of the table; Mrs. Lawson would not permit me to be so reserved, she made use of every means to engage my attention, and fixed her eyes on mine, with so much

much meaning, that I could not misinterpret it ; gallantry was now the general subject of conversation, in which both the ladies seemed to excel ; in short, I presently became instructed in that fashionable art, and contemplated with increasing pleasure, the beautiful Mrs. Lawson, who favoured me with the most flattering marks of her esteem ; there is nothing more dangerous, than the attractions of a bad woman, while they fascinate, they weaken every moment the powers of reason ; thus I was engaged, to promise to accompany her the next evening, to Drury Lane playhouse.

After we had drank tea, Mr. Summers persuaded me to go with him to a place, where he said he would introduce me to several of his friends, we had not far to go, and I soon found

found from the caution which was used at the several doors, through which we had to pass, that it was a gaming house, I was not a little surpris'd at the elegance of the apartment, which was consecrated to the purpose I have mentioned; hazard was the game that seem'd to engage the attention of the company, which was pretty numerous, Mr. Summers presently enter'd into play, and I very soon found from his readiness in setting the caster, and calculating the odds, that he was a perfect adept; I was tempted to try my luck, which was not very great, till I took the box in my hand, when I threw seven's the main, nine times running, and roll'd the guineas into my hand every moment, I was elated at my good fortune, and soon became delighted with play, which promis'd to make me very shortly independant; it was however impossible
for

for me not to be a little struck, at the despair and wretchedness pictured in the faces of the losers, which for a minute, arrested the career of my imagination, till a lucky throw did away such unpleasant observations; it was not till early the next morning, that we left the rooms; Mr. Summers congratulated me a good deal, on my having had such a run of luck, for I had won above fifty pounds, and did not fail to entertain me, on our way home, with the history of several favourites of fortune, who then kept their carriages from their speculations in play; he also took a great deal of pains to explain to me, the advantages of the game, and in short to make me a perfect gambler; I retired to bed, very much delighted, with having won so much money; though I sometimes reflected with pain, that I was going from the right road,
and

and remembered the lessons, the history of common life every day affords, which painted my situation, such as it really was ; however, I industriously separated the consequences, and foolishly thought that I should find the success my imagination painted without the disappointments of play ; but vice ever deceives us, when she points to happiness.

It was impossible for me to resist the temptation that seduced me from reason and from prudence, I visited Mrs. Lawson in the evening to tea, and found her still more agreeable than before, we went afterwards to the play, and were seated in the front boxes, I began now to indulge all the pride and vanity of a coxcomb, and to forget the dignity of a man ; vice is very rapid in her success, when once she is received ; I accompanied Mrs. Lawson home after the play was

was over; where an elegant supper was prepared for us, and I need not add, that so situated, I lost sight of discretion and honour, such was the life in which I had engaged, and happy it would have been for me, if it had ended with my excursion to the play; folly as it marks all human kind, will sometime or other be indulged, the greatest danger is, when from the indiscretion of a moment, we forsake virtue to make a constant sacrifice to vice.

I had now entered into so regular a life of dissipation and pleasure, that it began to sap the foundation of all real happiness; my situation was reduced, I neglected all my friends, even poor Mrs. Atkinson, whom I saw but very seldom, my health was injured with the hours I kept; and I found, I no longer possessed the contentment, which had accompanied

was accompanied me through the changes of my fortune ; the gaming table, though it no longer appeared to me the bank of fortune on which I could draw when I pleased, still possessed attractions, for my money was gone, so that I had all to recover and little to lose, from having been a pigeon, I now commenced a rook, and under the education of Mr. Summers, should soon have robbed my fellow creatures without remorse, of their property and their peace of mind, and extended my plan of ruin to their destitute families, but thank heaven, I was stopt in this career, providence, who guarded all my actions, snatched me by adversity from the arms of vice ; I had for sometime found it necessary to run in debt, to keep up the necessary appearance, which folly and dissipation requires of her followers, a sure and certain road to ruin and destruction, for

for however distant the day may appear, it will come at last ; in all the horrors of imprisonment and want, I was now too much reduced to keep the company I had done, and began to find myself shunned by my genteel acquaintance, and had constantly a dread upon my mind for fear of being arrested ; in my distress, I called upon my dear friends Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, who afforded me all the assistance in their power, tho' I had neglected them during my engagements with Mr. Summers ; it would not do for me however to remain any longer in town, as it became necessary for me to find some asylum from my creditors ; my friend Mrs. Howell's cottage came to my recollection, and it was there that I determined to go, having discharged my lodging, which reduced my finances to a mere nothing ; I set out on my journey, with a small bundle in my hand,

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hand, when going along the street, I happened to meet a beggar man, whom I had often given a sixpence to, in my prosperity, for which I was always entitled, "your honour;" the poor fellow did not know me in my disguise, and with great familiarity addressed me with; "God bless you master, do give us a half-penny:" I passed on, not a little mortified at the distinction, till I recollected the absurdity of being vain of respect, which the accident of an hour might lessen, or a good coat obtain.

The morning was fine and pleasant, and the fresh air gave new spirits to a heart loaded with remorse; a cheerful happy labourer, who was singing over his work, made me enquire into the cause of my discontent, it is true, said I, that I have lavished away my money,
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am disappointed in love, and neglected and forgot, yet on the other hand, my complaints will not be heard, nor my distress known to my friends, nor will she that I love, be disgraced by an alliance with a profligate, and as for poverty, it will at least secure me from vicissitude, and the anxieties of hope; this poor labourer, said I, has no cares beyond the business of the day, and is blest at night, with sweet and wholesome sleep; he looks not for to-morrow, to disappoint his expectations, or to augment his hopes; all his hours pass on, in the same peaceful serenity. It was in this way, that I philosophised on my way to Petersham, till my heart grew as light as a feather, and I forgot the cause of my complaint, the door of my friend's cottage was open, and a good fire was blazing on the hearth, I went to the hatch; "may a poor fellow

" low

“ low, (said I,) come in;” “ God bless
“ me (cried Mrs. Howell,) is it you, how
“ glad I am to see you!” “ indeed, (said
“ I,) you reproach me by this kindness,
“ for I am come to see you, when I
“ should be unwelcome any where else,
“ for I have little money in my pocket,
“ and am out of employ;” “ Now don’t
“ talk in that manner, (cried she,) I am
“ sure when you have it, many are
“ made happy with your generosity,
“ but come, sit down, don’t you think
“ I am very comfortable here, my dear
“ Harry is a good creature, we want
“ for nothing, and are blessed with
“ good health and spirits, and a sweet
“ little infant into the bargain.” Mrs.
Howell now busied herself to afford me
some refreshment, and a mug of good
ale, and some old Cheshire cheese was
put upon the table, when her husband
came in; “ ha! what master Wood-
“ cock,

“cock (cried he) who should have
“thought of seeing thee, my boy?”
“I am come, (said I) to stop a week
“or two with you, if you will let me
“one of your rooms.” “I am glad
“to see thee, (cried the farmer) but
“my wife don’t let lodgings; I
“doesn’t make my friends pay
“for coming to see me; there’s
“room enough in the house, I dare
“say; and if there isn’t, you may sleep
“along with mistress, that’s all.”
After we had drank our ale, Mr.
Howell took me into his fields, when
we entered into conversation upon se-
veral different subjects, by which I
found, though my friend did not
possess a refined understanding, he had
a great deal of good-nature and good-
sense, and how much is the highest
rank degraded, that has not those qua-
lities to adorn it. When we returned
home,

home, I found a couple of fowls had been drest for our dinner, Mrs. Howell presided at her little table, and made me as welcome as she possibly could, nor did I ever receive a more hearty invitation from any body, than I did from her husband, to remain with them as long as I should like. Mr. Howell went out to his work again after dinner; when I related to his wife all my adventures since I had seen her, and was not a little pleased to find that my friend Dr. Willock was well known to her, was the Rector of the place, and was to preach the next Sunday. I shall never forget the comfortable evenings I passed at my friend Howell's, he was usually seated opposite to me in an elbow chair, while his wife leaned on mine, and a little cousin who lived with them, sat on a stool in the chimney corner, while I related

my adventures, and amused them with stories I had heard, when admiration, joy, pity, and benevolence, played alternately in the faces of my honest auditors; I was obliged to promise that I would renew the subject the next evening, before they would let me go to my room, which was a comfortable chamber, with the bed and furniture so neat and clean, that a nobleman might have been satisfied with his accommodation. It was in this way that the time passed while I was at Petersham; some new diversion was constantly found out to entertain me, and the lassies of the town invited to make the evenings pass away pleasantly; Mrs. Howell knew however too well how much my heart was engaged to mention any of her neighbours to me, though many of them were handsome, and possessed of small fortunes. I cannot
say

say that I had ever felt more happy than I did at my friend Howell's farm; I found no change of temper in my hospitable host, nor could I see between him and his wife any of those little whims and caprices which so often disturb domestic happiness; all his business was confined to his fields and his cattle, and his wishes extended no further than to make his wife and family happy. When Sunday came, I found my friend Mrs. Howell and her little cousin dressed before breakfast, ready for church, and her husband seated in his elbow chair, in his Sunday cloaths, reading the Bible by the fireside. I cannot say but I felt a great deal of pleasure at the devotion of these good people; Sunday is a day that seems particularly adapted for the comfort of the farmer and husbandman, peace and good-will is then spread among all ranks of them, the cares of

the world are forgot, and the business of the week ceases, interest sleeps, and industry stops her hand, to join in the prayer of thanksgiving, or to sing the hymn of gratitude. Blest above all others are the moments when we feel satisfied with ourselves, grateful to Heaven, and at peace with the world. It was but a little way from the church and through a pleasant lane.

We were accompanied thither by several of our neighbours, all upon the same happy embassy; the neatness of their appearance, and the joy and satisfaction that reigned in their countenances, gave me a higher opinion of human nature than I ever had before; I could not help at this moment reflecting on the beauty of such a scene above the spectacles of pride, or the tumults of dissipation; what is all the pomp of the great, what

are

are the pleasures of voluptuousness, the glories of war, or the splendour of courts, to the peaceful moments enjoyed by the contented villager. I reflected now on the life I had led for some time back, and suffered by the comparison.

The sun with its rising glory gilded the tower of the church, the simple architecture of which had been kept in repair for some centuries back, by the zeal of the parishioners, the bell was ringing, my heart beat to its vibrations with the religion my mother had taught me; a narrow winding path was the entrance to the church-yard, which was filled on each side with the rough hewn stones that recorded the plain virtues of some honest countrymen, who needed no blazon to make them remembered; the inside of the church was remarkably Gothic, and

contained some monuments of ancient date, which impressed a sort of historic awe upon my mind.

I was let into the same pew with Mrs. Howell, who knelt down with the most grateful devotion; not a whisper was heard, not a word was spoke, but what pronounced the praises or the goodness of the Creator. Where, thought I, is interest, avarice, and litigation, just now; forgiveness is breathed from every lip, good-will is spread from one to another, the busy cares of the world are forgot, and the anxious mind depends with just hope on the power of the Almighty, and forgets its sorrows, in contemplating his goodness and mercy.

I was a good deal delighted, when I saw my worthy friend Dr. Willock ascend

ascend the pulpit, and as I had learned short-hand while I was with Mr. Flint, took care to take down a sermon which was perhaps worth attending to.

When we came out of church, I took care to speak to the Doctor, who wished me very much to go home with him to dinner, which I declined, as I did not then wish to explain the reason of my being at Petersham, till he told me that he had wrote to my lodging in town, and that he had some news to tell me about Miss Goodwill, but prepared me at the same time not to be too sanguine in my expectations; I promised to wait upon him as soon as I had dined, and then followed Mrs. Howell home; I was not much inclined to eat, and felt a good deal of impatience to know what news it was the Doctor

had for me ; it was however too early for me to see him, as he was only on a visit at a gentleman's house in the neighbourhood, and dined late, I amused myself therefore in writing down the sermon, and afterwards read it to all the family, who were full of their praises of the good Doctor.

THE SERMON.

“ The fear of the Lord maketh a merry
“ heart, and giveth joy and gladness,
“ and a long life. Eccl. c. i. v. 12.”

RELIGION is the firm basis of all human happiness, the love of the Deity the most delightful of all impressions, and our dependence on his providence the only real solace of life ; wretched and unsatisfactory is the philosophy that would deprive us of the contentment the religion of the good man affords him.

That

That philosophy can alone make us happy which tells us we are related to an Almighty being, full of mercy and benevolence, a relation which has found its way, to the imagination of an untutored savage, who though he knows not where to kneel, yet avows a God, a relation which beams on the mind of the enquiring infant, and shines with the full force of conviction to the dying atheist.

Religion only, can teach us, "How to be happy," receive then the offered blessing, shun the follies and errors, which cause reflection, avoid the vices that destroy your peace of mind, and forsake the crimes that bar the way to happiness ; in ourselves we may find the real cause of evil, and in the perverseness of human nature,—human wretchedness.

The good man is always happy, few indeed are the troubles that can dishearten him; to draw his picture faithfully, it would be this, (and the next village will produce the character,) he is healthy and vigorous, no harping cares, no fears perplex his mind, nor is he subject to doubt and suspicion, his face is the honest index of his heart, he rises early in the morning, and by his industry, and uprightness of conduct, offers up a daily hymn of gratitude to the Almighty, he is humble and unassuming; pride in him, is only to do all the good he can, thus providence assists his endeavours, and gives him all he asks—CONTENTMENT. After the business of the day is over, he enjoys the highest of human blessings, domestic happiness, and goes to bed at night, with the same contented heart with which he arose.—The good man reposes

poses at night, in the bosom of the Almighty.

How delightful an impression is self satisfaction, and how happy is the mind destitute of reproach ; ye gay thoughtless extravagant followers of dissipation, try for a time, the experiment of being good, I believe I may promise you, that your minds shall be more peaceful and tranquil, that even your embarrassments shall be removed, and that heaven shall assist, and bless your endeavours.—Every step from vice is a step towards happiness.

Devotion is a balm for all the calamities of human life, peace spreads her silken wings, over the sincere penitent, and a ray of heavenly comfort cheers his drooping heart, religion can afford us relief in all the changes and troubles

of life ; shall we then any longer refuse the offered blessing ; shall disbelief and perverseness still pass by the good they search for, and shall we linger in wretchedness, faith and religion can remove.

But you will say perhaps that the good man is subject to difficulty and misfortune ; it is true, he is, but in a very small proportion, his views are moderate and reasonable, he is humble and unambitious, what then has such a man to fear from the changes of fortune ? if his endeavours fail, he has the pleasing reflection, that what he did was for the best, and that he has not forfeited the love of the Almighty, by vice or indiscretion ; shall hope clear away the gloom, from before the eye of extravagance and folly, and shall she not cheer the worthy unfortunate ? yes !
the

the Almighty himself is the friend of the helpless, he has said

“ I will never leave thee or forsake thee.”

What fears, what apprehensions cannot such an assurance remove, and what hopes may we not cherish from so kind and merciful a father ; the history of Joseph, our own lives, and the vicissitudes of others, proclaim the power, the goodness, and providential care of the Creator ; can there be a more delightful reflection, that when oppressed with sorrow, we have a merciful God to address ourselves to, who will not reject us, because we are poor and friendless, who will not shun us, because we are wretched and forlorn, but who will forgive us all our faults, will raise us up, if we have fallen, and who will put forth his own hand, the hand of providence to assist us ; without such a friend
should

should we not sink under the calamities of life, or if possessed of the richest gifts of fortune, should we not distaste them all, as the uncertain owners of partial happiness, and with such a benevolent Deity, can we complain, can we be disobedient? I have said that in ourselves, we may find the cause of evil; let us review the catalogue of crimes, that annoy our peace and subtract from happiness.

First then,—Pride, that unchristian, unsocial vice, which while it denies acquaintance with the poor and distressed, is in the midst of pomp and affluence, accursed with dissatisfaction, it knows neither love, friendship, gratitude, or esteem, and is forlorn and wretched, even in a palace surrounded by flatterers, and attended by its slaves.---Vanity surely brings with it misfortunes enough, to induce us to
check

check its progress in the heart, its constant attendants, are disappointment and contempt.—Hatred and revenge, make a fatal war against happiness, every impetuous passion, stabs at our repose, and poisons contentment.—Envy constantly inhabits a depraved mind, it offends a principal commandment of our Saviour's, "thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself;" and it is remarkable, that it meets with its immediate punishment.—Envy is a vulture, which we ourselves cherish, who, while it only pecks at the success of others, gnaws incessantly our own hearts.—Malice is another attribute of the evil spirit, we need but observe the looks of the malicious man, to judge of his happiness.—Ill temper, is another cause of our unhappiness, it is derived from the evil principle, and not to be called a failing incident to human nature; it is the effect of either pride, envy, hatred, or malice, it is in vain that

that we say, it is the fault of education or disposition ; the truth is, that where our interest directs us to be amiable, we govern extremely well our conduct, ill temper is seen most from the superior to the inferior, and is of course as mean contemptible and cowardly vice.--Idleness is another cause of our discontent, and yet one would imagine, that the happy state of mind, in which we find ourselves, after having been advantageously employed, would determine us on the side of industry ; it is certain, that the indolent cannot be happy, since idleness only gives us time to indulge vanity, fruitless expectation and delusive hope, and in the end involves us in poverty and distress ; sensuality is the most dangerous of vices, it courts us, under the mask of pleasure, to destruction, and must be shunned at once, or there is no way to escape.

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—The company of bad persons, and the passion for play, have each of them the consequence of certain ruin.—Extravagance is ever followed one day or other by disgrace, poverty and contempt.--Let us for an instant, turn our eyes towards the prodigal.—Observe a young man in a thoughtful attitude leaning on a sofa, see the grandeur that surrounds him, empty pomp ! examine well his looks, his eyes, that just now sparkled in all the riotous pleasure of the moment, are sunk, his looks are pale and dejected, reflection chuses this lonely hour for her visit, methinks I hear him speak,
“ Was ever grief like mine, the dismal
“ prospect of my extravagancies appears
“ before me, the rabble who just now
“ amused, leave me nothing but remorse,
“ whither can I go, what will become of
“ me ; alas, it is too late, the world would
“ not believe my amendment, nor will
“ my

“my pride submit to their reproaches.”

—Thus he plunges on; the sequel, view him in a jail, his pleasures at an end, his friends grown cool, and his only companions, regret and unavailing sorrow.—Such is the picture of extravagance, yet think not that forgiveness will be denied him, no! the angel of the Lord offers the terms of peace to his distracted mind; methinks I hear the prayer of the wretched prodigal;

“ Oh my father, extend thy pardon to
“ me, my heart is almost broken, I am
“ joyless and without hope, I have
“ offended thee, and have no merits to
“ offer in atonement, oh let me be hid
“ in darkness for ever, or let my pray-
“ er be again acceptable unto thee,
“ have mercy on me, and forgive all
“ that’s past, or in the plain expressive
“ language of the scripture:” “ Father
“ I have sinned against heaven, and in
“ thy

“ thy sight, and am no more worthy to
“ be called thy son ;” how cheering
is the verse that follows, “ Go, said the
“ father to his servants, bring forth the
“ best robe, and put it on him, and
“ put a ring on his hand, and shoes on
“ his feet, and bring hither the fatted
“ calf, and let us eat and be merry.”

Providence now extends her arm to protect him, his friends return, his prospects brighten, and he is blest with plenteousness and peace, methinks I see the enraptured angel, fly to the throne of mercy, with the happy tidings of another repentant sinner.

If the vices I have already described, are sufficient to poison our happiness, how much more dreadful is the conscience loaded with enormous and accumulated crimes ; in vain the soft
bed

bed of luxury, invites us to slumber, while the agony of an evil conscience wakens us by its reproaches.—By every bad action we commit, we sell a portion of earthly happiness, and perhaps forfeit eternal bliss.

Since then the only way to be happy, is to be good, let us follow wisdom, soon we shall be convinced that her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace; how delightful are the effects of the social virtues—Benevolence, how grateful to the mind, how secure are we in discretion and honesty.—Humility, how sure a protection from disappointment.—Temperance, what health does it bestow, and how little do we suffer from natural evil, while we preserve the wholesome rules of sobriety.—Industry, how sure of its reward;—and
Devo-

Devotion, how sweet a balm for our woes, and the disappointments of this life ; these are the things that gladden the heart, and that set us above the vanities of the world, misfortune and the fear of death. Are men poor who possess those gifts? Are mortals wretched who are blest with the love of a merciful, all powerful God? and can we repine at a few days of evil, that lead to eternal happiness? But have you neglected the time of doing good, have you deviated from the path of righteousness? and have you omitted the duties of religion? yet there is a virtue, and a noble one left open to you to practice, REPENTANCE; this shall redeem the past, this shall restore your peace, shall bless the wretched, and give joy to the forlorn and disconsolate; a Saviour himself pleads the cause of the repentant sinner, and in the voice
of

of gentleness and love, promises pardon to thousands, and ten thousands, who turn from vice; oh, then receive this offering of his goodness, be blest and be happy.

CHAP.

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CHAP. VIII.

I visit Dr. Willock.—An agreeable change takes place in my affairs, which is succeeded by a somewhat disagreeable accident.—The distress in which it involves me, with an uncommon instance of generosity.

I WAITED upon Dr. Willock as soon as we had done tea, and after being introduced to Mr. Wilton, at whose house he was, we went into another room, when he entered on the subject of my love for Miss Goodwill; “ I have (said he) since your absence, “ visited at Mr. Goodwill’s several “ times, while he was in town, when “ I was a good deal affected by my “ observations respecting Miss Good-
“ will’s

“ will's health and mind ; I could see
“ very plainly that she indulged a con-
“ stant melancholy, and that her re-
“ gard for you preyed upon her so
“ much, as to endanger her health.
“ I took an opportunity one day, when
“ we were together, to mention your
“ name, and could easily discover how
“ much interested she was in your
“ welfare ; this engaged me to have
“ some conversation with her father,
“ and as he one day mentioned your
“ name with a good deal of respect, I
“ seized the advantage, and spoke of
“ your voluntary exile as a great proof
“ of your regard to honour, and to
“ his peace of mind ; Mr. Goodwill
“ told me, he was very sorry for your
“ misfortunes, and added, that he
“ should have been happy to have
“ served you, had you not entertained
“ the most extravagant and ridiculous
“ ideas

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“ ideas from his friendship, but that
“ the consequences had been very
“ serious to him, for his daughter had
“ sunk into a deep melancholy, ever
“ since your departure; I candidly
“ told him, that I thought if he was
“ to set his daughter’s happiness, his
“ own peace of mind, and a faithful
“ steward, to what he had already, in
“ one scale, and an additional twenty
“ thousand in the other, with a man
“ who would think he had a right to
“ do as he pleased, and who could
“ never make Miss Goodwill happy,
“ that he would find reason would
“ decide in your favour. I could per-
“ ceive (cried the Doctor) that what
“ I had said, made an impression.”
“ You may think so, Doctor, (cried
“ he) but I believe most people would
“ think otherwise.” “ Most people
“ (returned I) mistake the way to hap-
VOL. II. K “ piness;

“piness; you will pardon me, but it
“is my duty as a christian divine, to
“speak my sentiments, and I am sure
“you will acquit me of having any
“interest in this matter, but to do
“all the good I can.” “Well,
“ (cried he) we will not talk any more
“upon this subject at present.” “I
“was however glad to find he was not
“displeased with my frankness. The
“next time I dined with him, I was
“very much pleased to hear him
“mention you again.” “Well,
“Doctor, (cried he) if you please,
“you may bring your young friend
“Mr. Woodcock to see us, perhaps I
“only want to know a little more of
“him, to entertain the same senti-
“ments as you have done.” “This
“ (cried the Doctor) is the news I had
“to tell you, and of which I wrote to
“your lodgings in town.” I was so
delighted

delighted with this intelligence, that I was for some minutes incapable of returning thanks to Dr. Willock, for the friendly manner in which he had assisted my cause. It was however at last settled, that I should go to town with the Doctor, and as Mr. Goodwill was expected every day, that we should call on him the very first moment we might have an opportunity; such was the agreeable news with which I returned to Mrs. Howell, who was as happy as myself at the prospect which I had to look to.

The next day, after taking leave of my old friend Mr. Howell and his good wife, I went to town with Dr. Willock, and was to remain at his house, till Mr. Goodwill arrived in London; as I had little to do, I walked to my old lodging, to get the letter

the Doctor had sent me, and to see if there were any more, the people of the house having promised to take them in; I had the pleasure to have one given to me, which was directed with my Harriet's hand, the contents were:

"My Dear William,

"I was only informed yesterday
 "of your residence, good heavens, what
 "have you endured since I saw you
 "last, my heart beats now with the
 "recollection of your danger; may the
 "pleasing news I send you compensate
 "for all; my father (how delightful
 "are the words,) consents to see you;
 "you owe all to your worthy friend
 "Doctor Willock, we shall be in town
 "early the next month, when I hope
 "you will relieve the anxiety of your

"Sincere Friend,

"HARRIET GOODWILL."

I was

THE MOTTO. 197

I was so overjoyed at my good fortune, that I forgot all caution, and was, as I afterwards discovered, dodged home, by one of my creditors, who I happened to see, just as I knocked at the Doctor's door.—But the worst was to come, for I was the next day arrested by an officer, who was shewn into me by the servant, who was innocent of his purpose; unfortunately the Doctor was gone out, so that after leaving a few lines to explain my absence, I went with the officer to the lock up house; thus were my former indiscretions brought home to me at the very moment, when I was exulting in my successes, and the shock of disappointment made more severe by its interrupting at once all my expectation, for it laid me under the necessity of opening to my friend, the extravagances in which I had been engaged.—I was shewn into a dark room at

the spunging house, filled with unhappy people like myself, my spirits sunk to their lowest ebb.—A poor man was walking up and down the place, with a face so expressive of honesty, that I wondered how he came there, I asked him his history, he told me ; “ that he
“ was a carpenter, and had a good business, but unfortunately owing to
“ the dearness of provision, having a
“ wife and three children to support,
“ he run in debt with the butcher a
“ couple of guineas ; I would have
“ paid it off, (said he,) at half a crown
“ a week, but he put it into a lawyer’s
“ hands, who sued me, and afterwards
“ made me enter into a warrant of attorney, I paid five shillings a week
“ towards the debt and costs, which
“ amounted to six guineas ; when happening to miss my payment one day,
“ the attorney entered up judgement,
“ and

“and took me in execution.” Good heavens, (thought I,) what is my situation to this poor man’s, he has a wife and three children to support, and is honest and industrious, and I am a deserving sufferer for my folly and indiscretion; as I was employed in these unpleasant reflections, I heard Doctor Willock enquiring for me at the door; I was almost overcome with shame, when I saw him come in. “What’s the matter Bill” (cried he,) you seem quite out of spirits, come, come, these things have happened to the best of men, what is the amount of the debt.” “Indeed sir, (said I,) I do not deserve this goodness, for my present misfortune is the consequence of folly and extravagance.” “Well (cried he) we have all of us had our faults, and if you feel for yours, it is not as you

“call it a misfortune but a blessing;
“but come, tell me the debt;”—I in-
formed Dr. Willock of the amount of
the arrest, and of the circumstances that
had involved me in so disgraceful a busi-
ness, which he had no sooner heard, than
he sent for Mr. Harvey, who gave his
undertaking for the money.—Never
did I see a picture of more wretch-
edness and despair, than when the
poor carpenter saw my business was
settled; “Ah sir, said he to me, you have
“a friend. I have none;” “Who is that,
“ (cried Doctor Willock,) that says he
“has no friend? are you a christian
“ (cried he,) to the poor man,” “Yes
“sir;” then do not say you have no
friend, put your trust in God, and he
will be your friend; “I do sir, (re-
“turned he,) but my poor wife and fami-
“ly will break their hearts, when they
“hear that I must go to prison,” “You
“shall

“ shall not go to prison, (cried Doctor
“ Willock,) here Mr. Harvey, (said
“ he,) undertake for this poor man too,
“ and let me get out of the house as fast
“ as I can ;”—“ God bless you sir, (cried
“ the poor carpenter,) would that my
“ dear wife, and my little ones, were
“ here to thank you ;” the good Doc-
tor, who did not mean to let his services
to the poor carpenter end with his dis-
charge, proposed that we should go
home with him ; when the poor man,
who was overjoyed at our intentions,
conducted us to his lodging ; but how
much was I astonished, when I found
in the person of the poor carpenter’s
wife, my old friend Molly Maybush ;
Dr. Willock was highly delighted at
this unexpected interview, and we pass-
ed an hour made valuable, at once by
friendship, affection and gratitude.

I remained in town some days before Mr. Goodwill arrived in London; which however I no sooner heard of, than I expressed my eagerness to pay him a visit; Dr. Willock gratified my wishes, and the carriage took us to Park-lane; Mr. Goodwill shook me by the hand, the moment I came into the room, my dear Harriet soon after came in, dressed to such advantage, that she appeared beautiful, though much paler than I had ever seen her; difficult indeed it was for us to conceal our agitation, though the want of words was supplied by an interchange of looks, the most tender and expressive; after dinner Dr. Willock requested my Harriet to play an air upon the piano forte, which she accompanied with a voice, the most plaintive and melodious I had ever heard.—Time passed away in this agreeable manner, when it was proposed

posed that we should go to the play; during which entertainment, I had an opportunity to converse with my dear Harriet, who told me that her father was using his interest to procure me a place under Government, and had received from a friend the strongest assurances of his request being complied with; "I do not know, (cried she,) what may happen after this, but you must be patient and discreet."—I believe I was scarcely in my senses, at this extraordinary change in my fortune, my heart was filled at once with gratitude, joy and hope, and I returned home, delighted with my situation.

CHAP. IX.

I take a lodging.—Am supplied with money by Dr. Willock.—Meet with Mr. Summers, who entices me to the gaming table.—Am again reduced to necessity.—Visit Mrs. Atkinson.—An extraordinary incident.—The mystery of my birth unraveled, with a narrative of my mother's sufferings.

THOUGH my good friend Dr. Willock would have accommodated me with great pleasure at his own house; he wished me to provide myself a lodging, such as would suit my situation, and where I could be without restraint, and for this purpose he provided me with a great deal more money than was

neces-

necessary, telling me that I should repay him when I obtained the place that Mr. Goodwill was soliciting for me.—I hired very genteel apartments in Bond-street, where I lived some months, with great œconomy and satisfaction to myself, paying constant visits to my dear Harriet, and receiving from both her and her father, fresh demonstrations of esteem.—Unfortunately however, going along Bond-street one day, I was recognized by my old acquaintance Mr. Summers, who was dressed very fine, he insisted upon my dining with him, nor had I resolution enough to refuse him, though I felt myself rather uncomfortable at renewing the connection; in the evening as usual, he proposed taking a walk, and as he had taken care to ply the glass pretty well after dinner, I consented to go with him, to our old rendez-

vous,

vous, where I was tempted, as if by a certain fatality, to engage in play ; fortune seemed to favour every throw, and for a time, I exulted in my success ; at last I was prevailed upon to stake a large sum, which I lost, eager to replace it, I set another rouleau and lost again ; I began to feel the consequence of my folly ; the moment of despair is not however the time for prudence to dictate, I played on, and at last found myself a beggar ; truth now held her glass before my eyes, and I saw in its true colours, the despicable character of a gambler, I saw in the countenance of the winner, avarice, anxiety, meanness and cunning, and in that of the loser, envy, suspicion, malice, and despair.— It was now morning, and I wandered home, with a heart loaded with self reproach ; it was impossible for me to apply to Doctor Willock, who had so recently

recently afforded me assistance, and I knew not where else to go, thus day after day passed on; I was obliged to part with the little trinkets I possessed, and ashamed to call on my friends, passed my hours in despondency and wretchedness, a deserving sufferer for wanton and repeated indiscretions.

I was persuaded in my own mind, to sell the little token my mother had left me, and which I had always kept in a little case in my trunk, I went with tears in my eyes to the place, for my heart was almost broken when I recollected the mystery which accompanied the gift, and when I read the words:

“Providence shall explain.”

The regret I suffered would not permit me to look at it any longer, but my feelings remonstrated in vain, the tyrant, necessity,

necessity, enjoyed the tear I shed, and forced my compliance.

In my way to the jeweller's, I determined to call on Mrs. Atkinson, for though I was resolved not to take from her little income to assist me, yet I wished to unburthen my mind to her; I found her alone and at work; her face brightened at my entrance. "I was
" wishing to see you, (said she) Doctor
" Willock has been here, and is very
" angry, for he says you have not been
" to see him this fortnight past; I expect
" him to drink tea with me, you see
" I have dressed myself very fine to receive
" him." Though I was certain that what Mrs. Atkinson called fine, was only neatness and propriety, I could not help looking at her with more attention than common: among other things, she had a ring upon her finger, so like my
own,

own, that I was almost motionless with astonishment; Mrs. Atkinson saw my confusion. "Good God! (cried she) "what's the matter? you look ill." "I don't know what ails me, (said I) "but pray let me look at that ring for "a moment." "Certainly, (cried she, "taking it from her finger,) it is very "pretty, and was given me by Lady "Stretton, the motto is somewhat "mysterious." I looked at it with eagerness, and read:

"Providence shall explain."

"Mysterious indeed! (said I, throwing "myself into a chair that was next me, "and taking my mother's ring from my "pocket) look at this and judge if I "ought not to be surprised." "Hea- "vens! (cried Mrs. Atkinson as she "read the motto) what can this mean?"

"why

“ why am I to be ever tortured with
“ doubt and mystery ? Oh, Mr. Wood-
“ cock, how is it that we both possess
“ the same token ? surely, we must be
“ related to each other ! Oh, my God !
“ relieve me in thy mercy from sus-
“ pence.” After this, poor Mrs. At-
kinson was lost in thought, the tears
running down her cheeks with the pain-
ful agitation of her mind ; fortunately
for us both, Dr. Willock came in at
this moment. “ My good friends,
“ (cried he) what has happened now, I
“ was in hopes I had removed every
“ thing unpleasant, what remains that I
“ can do ? ” “ Nothing, Sir, (returned
“ Mrs. Atkinson) you are all goodness,
“ but we are just now entangled in a
“ mystery, which I fear never can be
“ explained.” “ Let me hear what it
“ is, (cried Dr. Willock) I have also
“ something extraordinary to tell you,
“ but

“but I must hear your story first.”

“Well then, Sir, (said she) I happened

“by mere accident to put a ring on my

“finger to day, which was given me by

“Lady Stretton, and which I seldom

“wear; when Mr. Woodcock came in,

“I observed him look at it with a great

“deal of curiosity, but what was my

“surprise when he shewed me another of

“the same size, the same work, and with

“the same motto.” “And pray what

“is the motto?” (cried the Doctor)

Mrs. Atkinson read:

“Providence shall explain.”

“It is very extraordinary indeed,

“ (cried he) but do not be agitated, all

“will be cleared up by and by, per-

“haps sooner than you expect. Come,

“let us have some tea, and afterwards

“I will tell you something as fur-

“prising as what you have related, and

“which

"which will tend perhaps to the
"development of all."—During tea,
Dr. Willock requested me to favour
him with that part of my history which
related to my infancy, as he said he had
forgot many of the incidents I had
told him before.—I went over as
briefly as I could the story of my birth,
and when I came to the circumstance
of the ring, was a good deal surprised
to find that I had neglected to mention
it to Mrs. Atkinson, at least to repeat
the words of the Motto, when I related
my narrative to her, nor did she, though
she told me that Lady Stretton gave
her a ring, mention that occurrence as
having any thing remarkable in it,
though it turned out to be the only
clue which was to unravel the mystery
of our births; thus the most trifling
incident in the hands of Providence, is
made to promote her ends, and a
moment

moment does what would have cost human ingenuity years of anxiety to explain, and which might have remained in oblivion for ever.—“ Do not be surprised, my friend, (cried Dr. Willock to Mrs. Atkinson) if this young man is your own brother, and that he is also the heir to a title and a great estate; be composed, and I will relate to you, a history, which, though it is a melancholy one, must be told, and will explain the mystery you are involved in; it is thus that God Almighty shews his power and providence: there is nothing so secret or hid, but what he can bring it to light, and no difficulty but what he can remove.”—Mrs. Atkinson, who had not spoke a word for some time, was now so overcome with her agitation of spirits, that she fell into my arms silent and in tears; the pause was affecting,

affecting, it would indeed require the hand of an able master to paint a scene of so much tenderness and sensibility; the good Doctor stood over us, clasping his hands together, giving us his blessing, while I leaned back on the sofa with Mrs. Atkinson in my arms, who hung on me with all the affection of a sister. “Who can say (cried Dr. Willock) that there is not a providence?”

After we were a little composed, the Doctor began to relate to us the history which promised to explain to us who our parents were. “This morning, (said he) my servant came to me while I was at breakfast, with an unaccountable story of a man who wished to see me, but who would not send up his name; I did not however refuse to see him; it was an old servant of mine who I had not seen for many years; he begged that I
“ would

“ would give him half an hour’s con-
 “ versation alone, as he wanted to dis-
 “ burthen his mind to me. I rang the
 “ bell, and gave orders that nobody
 “ should interrupt us, a good deal
 “ astonished at what the man could
 “ mean.” “ You remember Sir, (cried
 “ he, when we were alone) that I left
 “ you, to go into the service of my Lord
 “ Stretton, who was shortly after
 “ privately married to a young lady of
 “ the name of Howard.” “ What,
 “ (cried I) was Lord Stretton married
 “ before he paid his addresses to Lady
 “ Exell?” “ Yes Sir, (returned Ed-
 “ wards, for that was the man’s name)
 “ and I was made accessory to the most
 “ base and infamous plan ever known,
 “ for he espoused Lady Exell, though
 “ his first wife, dear lady, was living;
 “ for his lordship got the clergyman
 “ who performed the ceremony, to go
 “ out

“ out with a gentleman, who was
“ governor at one of the West India
“ Islands, and bribed the clerk at the
“ church where they had been married,
“ to tear out the page in which it had
“ been entered; you know Sir, (con-
“ tinued he) that many people thought
“ little Miss Somerville was his natural
“ child, and that her mother was dead,
“ but the truth is, that she was his own
“ lawfully begotten, and I have a paper
“ in my pocket that can prove it.
“ However, his lordship had not been
“ married long to Lady Exell, before he
“ repented of his cruelty, and sent me
“ in search of his first wife, but all in
“ vain, for we never heard any more
“ of her, and his lordship soon after
“ that went abroad and took me with
“ him, where he went into a deep
“ melancholy, and continued so until
“ the death of Lady Stretton, when he
“ returned

“ returned to England, and made a
“ diligent search after his poor lady, that
“ was his first wife, but he was as un-
“ successful as ever, nor could he even
“ hear what was become of Miss
“ Somerville, though the servants told
“ him they believed she was living, but
“ indeed he did not wish much to see
“ her, unless he could have found her
“ mother, for I believe the sight would
“ have been too much for him, so that
“ he went abroad again directly: I
“ never knew any body so melancholy
“ as he was after this time: indeed, I
“ was almost afraid that he would make
“ away with himself, which it seems was
“ his intention several times; he did
“ not however live long, but went into
“ a decline, that killed him in a few
“ months, and after his death, I found
“ this paper in his room, which made
“ me determine to come to England to

“divulge all that I knew, and thought
 “that I might take the liberty to ask
 “my old master how I ought to act.”
 “I was so astonished (cried Dr. Wil-
 “lock) at what Edwards told me, that
 “I doubted whether the story was real
 “or fictitious, till I read the paper
 “which he put into my hand.”

*The Confessions of John Augustus Lord
 Viscount Stretton.*

To our crimes we owe the miseries of
 life.—Of the truth of this, I am a fatal
 evidence.—My unhappy story will shew
 the certain end of vice, and present a
 catalogue of sad items, the consequences
 of a deviation from virtue and from
 honour.

The data of my misfortunes com-
 menced when I was about twenty-four,
 till

till that fatal period, my gaiety of mind, the inconstancy of my disposition, and the extravagancies I had entered into, had injured no one but myself; I sometimes erred, but amendment was not out of my power: I committed faults, but could remove the consequences by repentance, till one fatal complicated act of villany robbed me of my peace of mind, and left me not the means of atonement.—I was out shooting one morning near a little hunting box I had at Richmond, in Yorkshire, where my gun burst in my hand and wounded my wrist so badly, that I went into the first place I could find, to get it dressed, which happened to be the parsonage house, of a good old clergyman of the name of Howard; whose hospitable cottage was open to every traveller; it was here that I first saw my poor Elizabeth, who bound up my bleeding hand, while her

father spread his humble board to refresh my weary spirits; Miss Howard had received part of her education from a rich old lady, whose superstitious fears prevented her from making a will, so that her relation received no other advantage from her bounty, than the accomplishments she possessed, which indeed made her fit for any situation in life.

Would that I had not been born a lord; I might then perhaps have been happy. How mistaken sometimes are the ideas of elevated rank, and how much do they degrade the mind. It is the fault of the great to judge only from the head; the heart has seldom any thing to do in their actions; it was this that made me ridicule the idea of marrying the daughter of a country curate, though humanity could

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not prevent me from planning her ruin, for I took constant opportunities of seeing her, and made love to her in the most tender and persuasive terms, and professed the most honourable motives to her father; thus did I triumph over the weakness of a worthy girl, whom I ought to have valued. Mr. Howard questioned me one day very seriously respecting my attachment and my intentions, for he was too good and much too humble to think of drawing me into a marriage with his daughter. Notwithstanding all he could say against our union, I swore by every thing sacred, that I should never be happy without her, though I was at the same time studiously endeavouring to effect my purpose in the most dishonourable way. My Elizabeth was of a mild and gentle disposition, though she possessed a share

of just pride ; it was not difficult to persuade her generous mind that I was sincere, she believed all that I said, I used every means to seduce her from innocence, but in vain ; I then thought of marrying her, that I might obtain my wishes ; but I know not for what reason, her father seemed still to doubt my sincerity, and required that I should make my family acquainted with my design, without which he would not give his consent ; however, at last I prevailed on my dear Elizabeth to consent to be privately married to me, for she was satisfied with the reason I gave for that step. I managed my plan so as to take her to a little town about thirty miles from Richmond, where the ceremony was performed, and I was made happy in the possession of the best of women. I wrote to her father, to make him acquainted with what

what had happened, and to ask his blessing; he begged to see his daughter, and we went once more to Richmond, where I past three years in the most delightful felicity; but the demon who poisons human happiness with sin, soon destroyed this earthly paradise. I received a letter from my father to desire that I would give him an answer respecting some proposals he had had from the Earl of Chesterton, who wished an alliance with our family, as our estates lay contiguous, and whose daughter Lady Louisa Exell possessed a very large fortune, and was at the same time reckoned the greatest beauty in England. At first I resolved to discover the truth of my private marriage, but soon changed that generous resolution, and feigned an excuse to go to town on business, that I might see a lady of whom I had heard so

much. I was introduced immediately on my arrival, and became enamoured with her person ; pride, and the desire to possess her, soon got the better of my regard to honour, and made me forget my poor Elizabeth. I now saw that it would be very easy to persuade her that she was never legally married to me. I saw that my money would afford me the means to bribe the clerk, and it happened that I just then had an opportunity to recommend the poor curate, who performed the ceremony, to be chaplain to a friend of mine, who went out as Governor to Barbadoes ; thus my imagination furnished me with a plan the most infamous and detestable I could have thought of, and which I soon put in practice. Some few days after this, I danced at a ball with Lady Louisa, when her beauty and form removed every

every consideration, and in a moment of frantic passion, drunk with wine and pleasure, I wrote the following letter to my tender good Elizabeth, which I shall never forget.

“ MY DEAR ELIZABETH,

“ You will not I hope be alarmed
“ beyond reason, when I inform you,
“ that I am on the point of being
“ married to Lady Louisa Exell, and
“ that at the ceremony performed at
“ Church, no clergyman officiated,
“ but that the door was opened
“ by the clerk, who got a person to
“ personate that character. I am sure
“ your good sense will see the impropriety of a peer of the realm marrying into an obscure family ; still my
“ love for you is too great to let me
“ do you an injustice. I am prepared
“ to afford you a handsome settlement,

L 5

“ and

“ and must insist on bringing up my
“ little girl under my own care. My
“ steward will obey all your instruc-
“ tions ; be but prudent, and you will
“ secure for ever the esteem

“ Of your sincere friend,

“ STRETTON.”

Such was the mean, the base, the false
epistle I dictated, to tear with agony
the best of hearts, and it served its
purpose most effectually ; for a few
days afterwards there came a woman
to my house in Grosvenor-street, with
a letter, who, while the servant brought
it up to my room, left a child in the
hall, and went away. I hastened down
the stairs to detain the messenger, till
I had read the note, when my little
Lucy came running towards me, I
shuddered at the sight, and felt an
anguish

anguish of mind that was doubly increased, when I read as follows :

“ MY ONCE DEAR JOHN,

“ All is over—the cruel blow is
“ struck—my peace is murdered
“ —my moments of happiness are fled
“ for ever—to me the pleasing fun of
“ life is set, never to rise again. My
“ poor father now lies dead—he could
“ not bear your cruelty—I am the
“ cause of all ; my disobedience and
“ indiscretion have planted a thorn in
“ my heart, that will rankle there for
“ ever. You offer me a settlement ;
“ no, never, never shall you hear again
“ of your injured Elizabeth.—It mat-
“ ters not what you say, whether it is
“ true or false ; I will never trouble
“ you, or seek detection.—Oh, why
“ did you force me from my humble
“ cottage, to upbraid and desert me.

L 6

“ —You

" —You have checked a torrent of
 " affection, the purest that ever flowed
 " from a woman's heart.—When I
 " received your letter, before I knew
 " its contents, I kissed every letter of
 " the superscription with delight,—but
 " you want not my love.—I have sent
 " your Lucy according to your order ;
 " do not use her ill. Adieu.

" From your lost

" ELIZABETH."

I sent my servants immediately to
 Richmond in Yorkshire, where all the
 information they obtained was, that
 my dear Elizabeth left her house the
 day before, with only a few cloaths in
 a bundle, and her little Lucy in her
 hand ; all that her people knew, was,
 that after her father's burial, she took
 a post-chaise for London, and forbid
 any of her servants attending her.

One

One would have imagined, that the letter I received would have recalled my heart to humanity, but much as I felt for some days, when I saw my Elizabeth had actually released me, by the measures she had taken, I went on in the progress of my villany; the tavern and the gaming table, gave me no time for reflection, and in about a month I was married with great pomp, to Lady Louisa Exell, on which day, another calamity attended me, for at night while at supper, my father died suddenly in his chair.—It seems as if conscience defers all its remorse for the full completion of a crime. I was no sooner married, than the asp began to gnaw at my breast; I concealed my uneasiness as much as I could from the now Lady Stretton, who however, perceived it in spite of the exterior I maintained. The only mitigation to my
 pain,

pain, was the hope that my poor Elizabeth would at last accept the allowance I had offered her, but there was an insult in the thought; her virtues placed her too much above me, to accept my assistance; in her it was not pride, but the most virtuous dignity, that refused the donation.—I now saw my injustice, and renewed my search, though I knew not how to remedy the past, but vain were all my endeavours. I could not obtain the most distant intelligence respecting her, and was punished with renewed agony and multiplied distress. It was with great difficulty that I managed to conceal my increasing remorse from Lady Stretton, who was hurt at my coolness and indifference; thus I had committed another crime, in having given her a hand that could not bestow a heart, nor did I dare discover to her a secret which

which would have destroyed her peace, have annulled our marriage, and laid me open to the resentment of her family, without being any relief to my mind, or without making atonement to my dear Elizabeth, who was lost to every body. Thus I past weary days and heavy nights, in reflecting on my cruelty and injustice, and in mourning the loss of a woman that I had mercilessly thrown from my arms, whose heart would have beat with mine on every occasion of uneasiness, and whose tears would have mingled in all my sorrows.—But like the fallen Adam I was to be accursed for ever.—How dear is her memory to me now.—But she is lost;—yet if she knew my sufferings, her gentle heart would pity them.—If she is dead, she is an angel, and will offer up for me an appeasing prayer to the Deity, who now proscribes pleasure from my breast.

My

My only consolation, if a moment of consolation could be found among the wretched reflections my villanies had purchased, was, that my little Lucy was taken care of; for I had given her in charge to Lady Stretton, as a little orphan, who was left one night by a poor woman at my house; thus did I rob my dear child, of all the distinction it had a claim to, to prevent discovery.

—The torments the unjust endure never are at an end, the fire, the constant fire, conscience lights up within the breast, never is extinguished, all satisfaction was lost to me; my reflections grew stronger every day, and I was weary of life; I applied to religion to afford me comfort, but my heart reproached the hypocrite, and spoke to me, at every season of stillness,

Go, atone first, and then repent.

Lady

Lady Stretton grew at last so importunate to know the reason of my melancholy, that I resolved to leave England, under a pretence that it was necessary to my health.—Before I went, however, I repeated my search after my dear Elizabeth, but with as little success as ever, so that I concluded she was dead, and a circumstance that happened soon after, strengthened that opinion, a parcel was sent to me with a ring inclosed, which had the following remarkable Motto,

Providence shall explain.

I also received a note with it, to this effect; “this ring to be given to the daughter of Lord Stretton by Elizabeth Howard.”—I concealed the circumstances, and told Lady Stretton that I had bought a trinket for her
little

little charge, and requested* she would give it her, when she thought proper.— I now took leave of my native country, with only one servant, who had lived with me some time, and who was privy to the cause of my uneasiness; I determined in my own mind, never to return to it again, and was wounded at my departure, by the tender and affectionate farewell of an amiable and accomplished woman, who I had deceived into an unhappy marriage.—I remained several years abroad, till I was informed of the death of Lady Stretton, which circumstance gave me new hopes, and I returned to England to renew my endeavours to find my Elizabeth, and advertised in the papers in terms she must have understood, but I was not to be made so happy; what was more extraordinary, I could not learn what was become of my poor Lucy, who I

was

was informed, was left destitute by the sudden death of Lady Stretton; but my heart was now too much wounded with anguish and remorse, to wish any more for happiness, I indulged the pain I suffered, and fed the vulture at my heart, thus I gave up my pursuit, and flew, like a wretched criminal, abroad once more, frantic with disappointment and despair; at last, I resolved to leave the world a wretched recital of my crimes, as a testimonial of the sure punishment of vice, and the certain end of dishonour.

Whoever finds these papers, will easily account for the suicide of Lord Stretton, and let not a false principle of pride or regard to my memory, prevent them from publishing the truth; the man who has once injured another, deserves the stain that is left on his character; let

let then the stake be plunged in the heart of the vile monster, John Augustus Stretton, let not a tear be shed, or a sigh be uttered, nor even compassion say; "heaven, have mercy on him."—There is no mercy, for he stabbed at innocence and truth, yet let not my name be gone for ever, perhaps I have a son, for at the time I left my dear Elizabeth, she was with child, which should it be a male infant, I declare the true and legitimate heir, to the title and estates of Viscount Lord Stretton.—

- Now to that God, whom I have so much offended, I make one prayer;
"That if my Elizabeth lives, he may
"give peace to her injured mind,
"and that he may bless my dear children, if alive,* and restore them
"through his providence, to the right
"I have robbed them of.—This is all
"the

“the atonement I can make.—Have
“mercy heaven.

“JOHN AUGUSTUS STRETTON.”

“Such (cried Dr. Willock,) is the un-
“happy history of the late Lord Stret-
“ton, yet do not my dear friends,
“reproach heaven by an extravagance
“of grief; but rather admire its pro-
“vidence, and be satisfied, that as
“your father asked mercy, so he shall
“receive it; for his punishment on
“earth was severe indeed; and let his
“example direct you, to use with
“care the blessings, God Almighty
“has bestowed.”—It was with great
difficulty, that the good Doctor quiet-
ed the perturbations he had raised in
Mrs. Atkinson’s breast, which were in-
creased, when her husband came, and
heard the story repeated.—I now frank-
ly told the Doctor my distress, and the
circum-

circumstance that led to it; "Well
" (cried he,) think no more of it, but
" shun in future the vice of gaming;
" you will find (cried he,) in this day's
" paper, the name of your acquaint-
" tance Mr. Summers, who is sentenc-
" ed to transportation for seven years
" for swindling; thus you may see,
" (continued the Doctor,) the end of
" vice, and the necessity we have of
" being virtuous, to be happy."

P. A. H. C.

C H A P. X.

I am engaged in law.—Visit my friend David.—His astonishment at my appearance.—Establish my claim in the house of Lords.—Am united to Miss Goodwill.

GOOD fortune is not without its anxieties, for though I found myself the heir to a title and a large estate, I had to establish that claim, and had besides to enter into scenes of life, to which I was an uttered stranger, for my free and unreserved disposition did not agree much with the demeanour of a lord.

I was not long, before I went with Doctor Willock, to tell the news of my
unex-

unexpected good fortune to Mr. Goodwill, who surprised us very agreeably by informing me; "That he had secured me a place of three hundred a year, and that as soon as I was fixed in it, he should no longer have an objection to my becoming his son in law;" Dr. Willock, who was very much pleased with this voluntary offer, returned for answer; "I believe sir, you will have no occasion to repent this goodness, but if you were not thus disposed to this young man, I think I could very easily procure Miss Goodwill the hand of a peer, who loves her to distraction."—"Perhaps you might Doctor, (said Mr. Goodwill,) but if the richest peer in England was to make her proposals, he should not have my consent, after I had given my promise to another, however low in estate;

“ estate ; yet (continued the Doctor)
“ I think you would not reject the
“ person I shall mention.” “ Indeed,
“ Doctor (cried Mr. Goodwill) I don’t .
“ know what you mean ; I wish you
“ would explain.” “ Well, sir (cried
“ Dr. Willock, taking my hand) here
“ is the nobleman I speak of, Lord
“ Viscount Stretton.” Mr. Goodwill
was so much astonished, that it was
some time before an explanation took
place, when he wished me joy, and
expressed great satisfaction at his
having approved me as a Son-in-law,
before I had the recommendations of
title and fortune. Miss Goodwill at
this moment came into the room.
“ Give me leave, my dear (cried her
“ father) to introduce you to Lord
“ Stretton, for such is the title your
“ old friend Mr. Woodcock has a
“ claim to ; the mystery of his birth is
Vol. II. M “ explained,

“ explained, and he has at last met
“ with the reward due to his merits.”
—“ Is it possible (cried my Harriet,)
“ then my wishes are compleated ; but
“ how has this discovery been made ?”
“ That (cried Doctor Willock,) he
“ will tell you himself ;” I was no sooner
left with my dear Harriet, than I
explained to her, what had happened,
which was almost too much for her
gentle spirits ; nor was my mind less
agitated, for it had reached a height of
pleasure I had never felt before, it was
not difficult for me to persuade her to
fix the day of our union ; thus did
I find myself at once a successful lover,
and blest with a fortune, which I had
experience enough to value and enjoy.

The next day I attended Dr. Willock
on the business of my claim, which
was,

was, through the advice of Mr. Harvey, put into a fair way, who was a good honest man; after which I visited my friend David, who I found as usual at the fire side, broiling a beef steak; I made the Doctor's servant go up stairs, and announce the name of Lord Stretton, so that when I entered the door, the scene was amusing enough. —Mrs. Dobbins, whose nerves had been compleatly shocked, by the thundering knock at the street door, had placed herself upright in the middle of the room, with her hands clasped together in an attitude of astonishment, while poor David was employed conveying the gridiron out of sight; which he had no sooner done, than he turned about, and seeing me, exclaimed; “God bless me Bill, is it you?” “Bill, (said I,) do pay a little more

“respect to a nobleman if you please.”
“Pshaw, what nonsense, cried he, I wish
“you had been in Jericho, there’s all
“the beef steak tumbled into the ashes,
“with your plaguy fun;” “It’s very
“extraordinary behaviour, (cried Mrs.
“Dobbins, putting herself in order,)
“I wish people would not make this the
“temple of Dagon.”—Though I could
not help laughing at this reception,
I had management enough to express
my concern, for having disturbed them
from dinner, and told David, that I
would treat him with a fowl, if he
would send for it; David’s counte-
nance brightened up at this offer,
when I requested, he would step down,
to say that I had no further occasion for
the carriage; David only made a num-
ber of odd faces at this request, but did
not stir a peg, till I shewed him the
chariot,

chariot, out of the window, when he run down stairs in a panic, and returned with his hair standing an end; "God
" bless ye, Mr. Woodcock, (cried he,) " what happy *catastrophe* has happened
" to you now;" I did not keep my friend David in suspense, but told him in a few words, the change that had taken place; Mrs. Dobbins at this relation shewed much more of doubt than pleasure; "Ah! (said she,) it may be so, but have you got
" this estate." "Psha! cried David, why
" it's as clear as possible; come give us
" your hand, my boy, you remember
" my dream about the Elephant and
" the Coronet, why it was always *pre-*
" *domiant* in my mind, that you would
" be a great man, some day or other."
" Ah! well, God only knows, (inter-
" rupted Mrs. Dobbins,) but there's
M 3 " many

“many a slip between the cup and the
“lip.”—Such was the reception I met
with, from these two very opposite
characters, the one all honesty and cre-
dulity, and the other all hypocrisy and
suspicion; however, I passed the even-
ing very comfortably with my friend
David, who whispered as I was going
away, that, “dang it, he did not like
“his wife much. Between you, and I,
“ (cried he,) she’s a bit of a d—l, but
“it’s no use complaining; I have got
“into the Chapel as Clerk, and enjoy
“my pot of beer every night, so that
“I an’t so bad off as many husbands.”
I believe part of these observations were
overheard by Mrs. Dobbins, for she
called out in a shrill voice; “Do you
“intend to come to bed to night, Mr.
“Dobbins?” which put poor David
in such a panic, that he run in as
fast

fast as he could, without wishing me good night.

I had little else to do, previous to my marriage, than to visit my old friends Mrs. Howell, and my dear sister Mrs. Atkinson, whose worthy husband, through the activity of Mr. Harvey, at last got his law suit brought to a conclusion, and decided in his favour; in the mean while, Doctor Willock interested himself in getting my claim brought before the house, which was soon after established, when I took my seat accordingly, as William Lord Viscount Stretton; and soon after was united to my dearest Harriet; who begged me to invite on that occasion, all my old friends, that they might see the *Peer* had not *altered* the *man*. It was impossible for me not to feel in a sensible degree the power and goodness of that
Being,

Being, which had raised me from poverty to honour and affluence; nor was my disposition altered by the change, for I had seen too much of common life, not to feel for the distress of others, or to shut my door against the poor and needy. Rank never *raises* itself so high, as when it *sloops* to succour the distressed. Such too was the amiable disposition of my Harriet, whose domestic virtues rendered every one blest about her.

Grateful indeed was the moment, when I felt myself at once beloved, happy, and independent; nor did I forget sometimes to look at the words of the

MOTTO.

4 DE 58

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